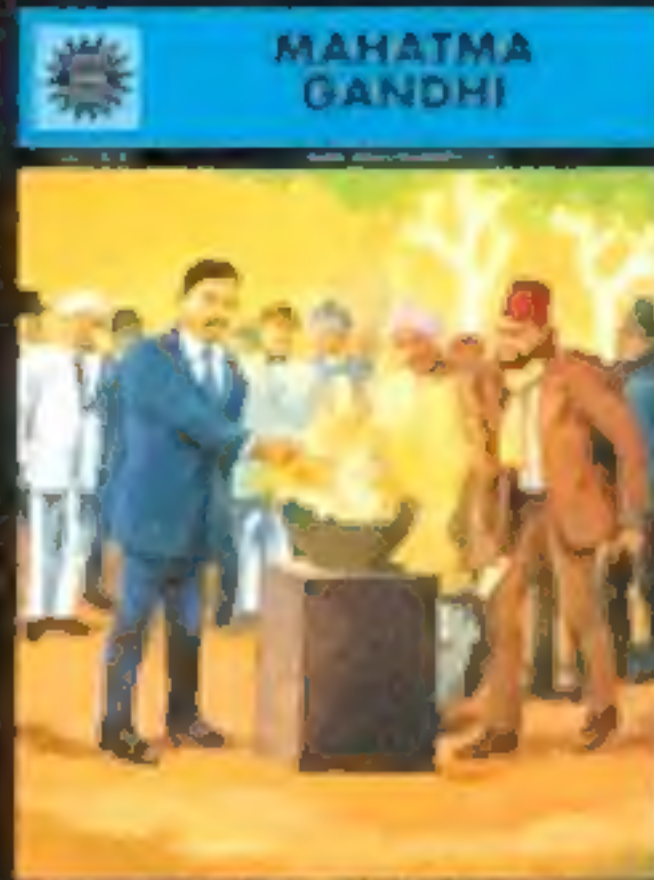


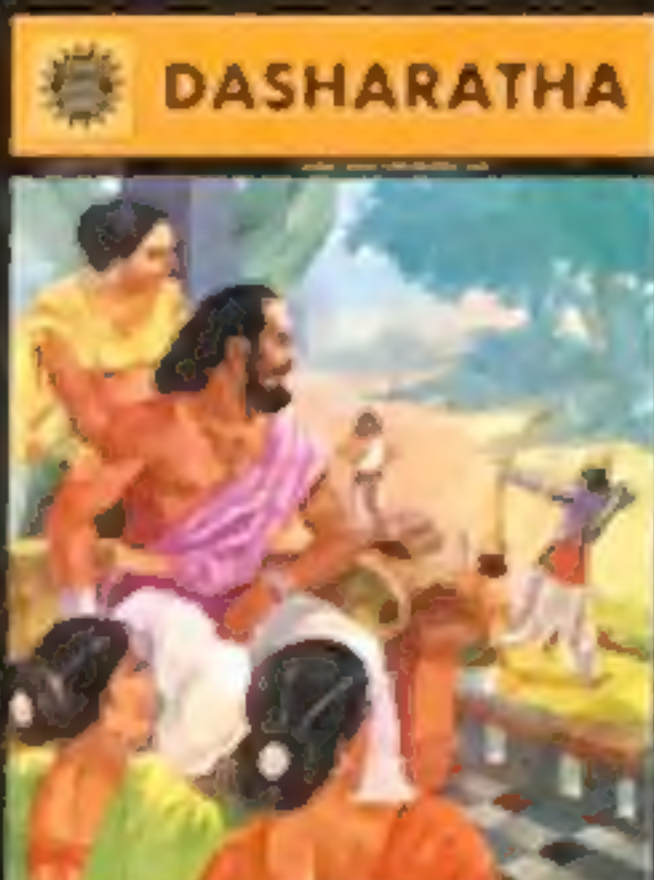
LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

Lal Bahadur Shastri may have been small in size but he had an immense vision. Determined to build a new India, he took on every challenge with a cheerful smile and a humble heart. Years of hard work took their toll, however. In her moment of triumph, the country was suddenly left grieving for a wise, honest and courageous prime minister.

OTHER ACK VISIONARIES:



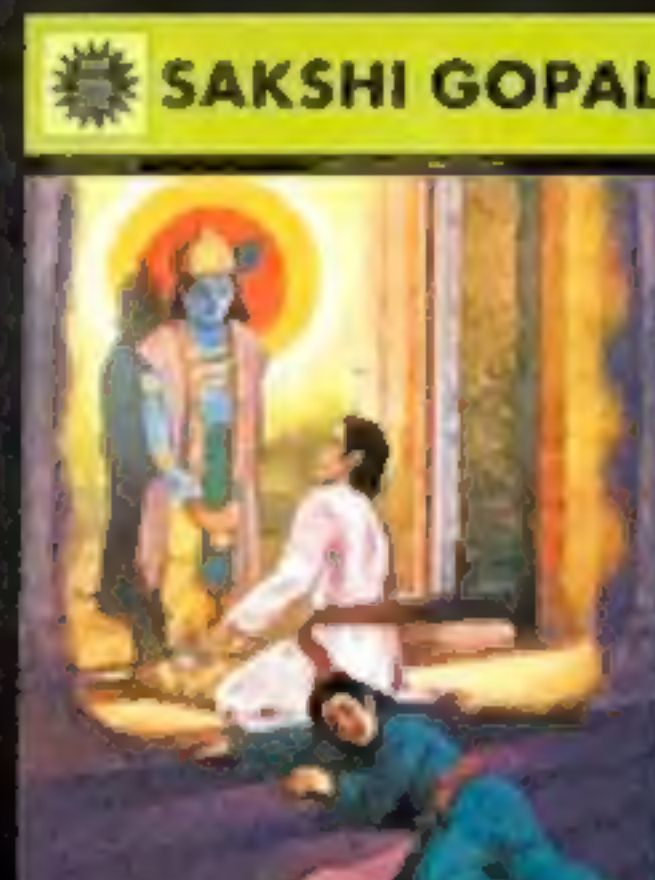
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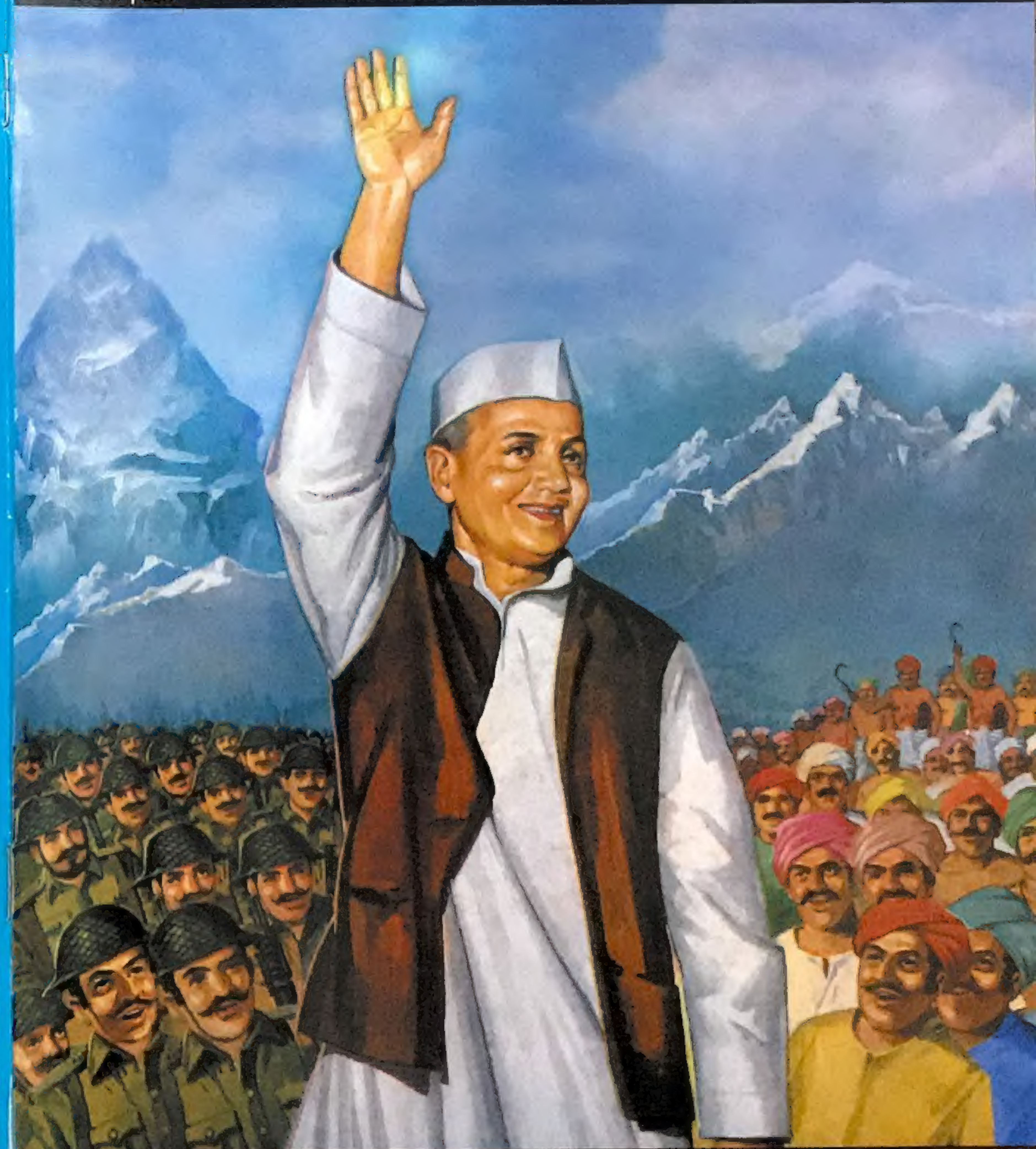
VISIONARIES



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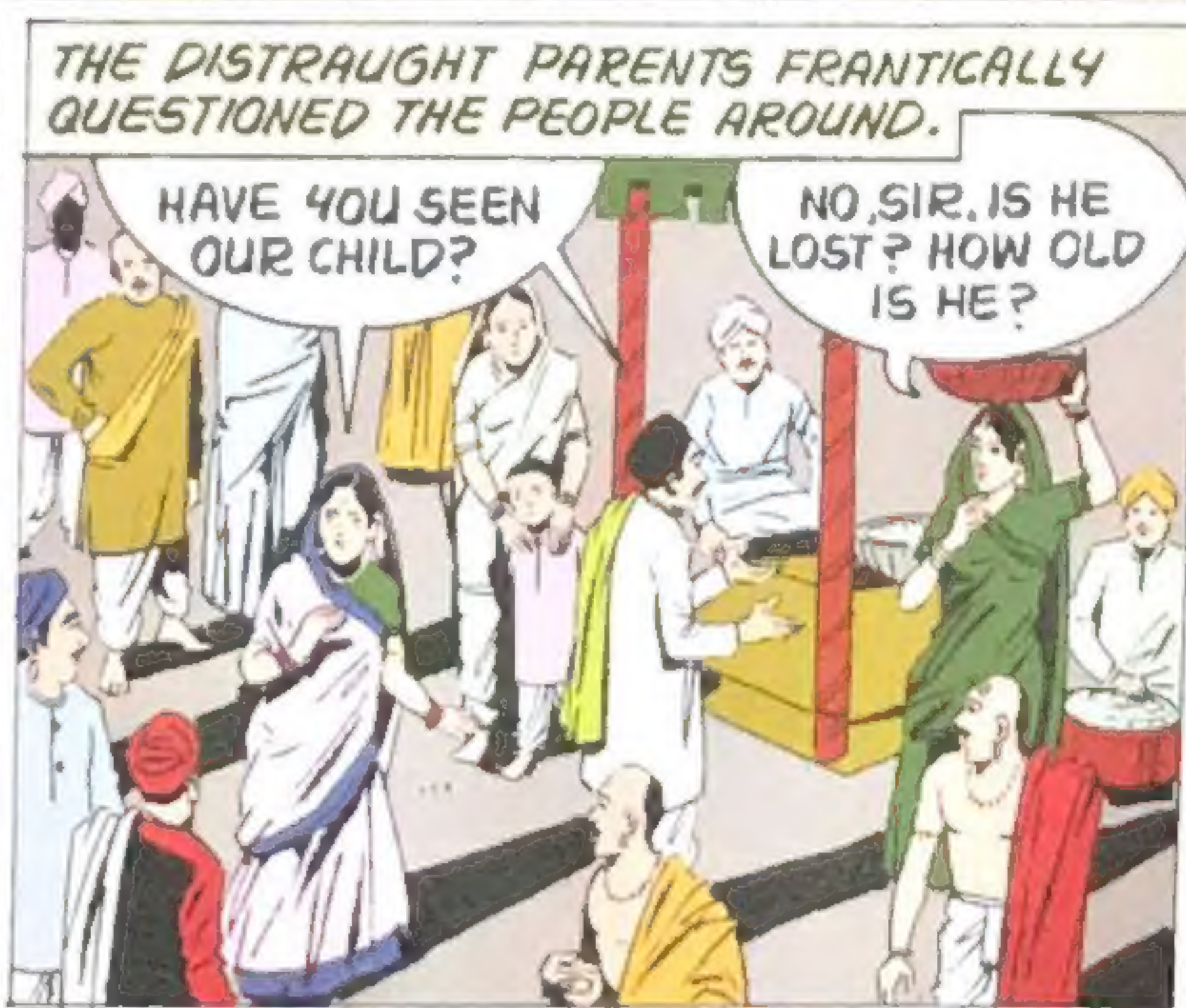


IT WAS THE YEAR 1905. AT PRAYAG, SHARDA PRASAD, A TEACHER IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL, WAS BUSY BUYING SOME FRUIT WHEN HIS WIFE, RANDULARI, TRIPPED AND FELL.



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHERE IS NANHE?*

HE ROLLED OUT OF MY ARMS WHEN I FELL. SOMEONE PICKED HIM UP. THOUGHT IT WAS YOU.



THE DISTRAUGHT PARENTS FRANTICALLY QUESTIONED THE PEOPLE AROUND.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR CHILD?

NO, SIR. IS HE LOST? HOW OLD IS HE?

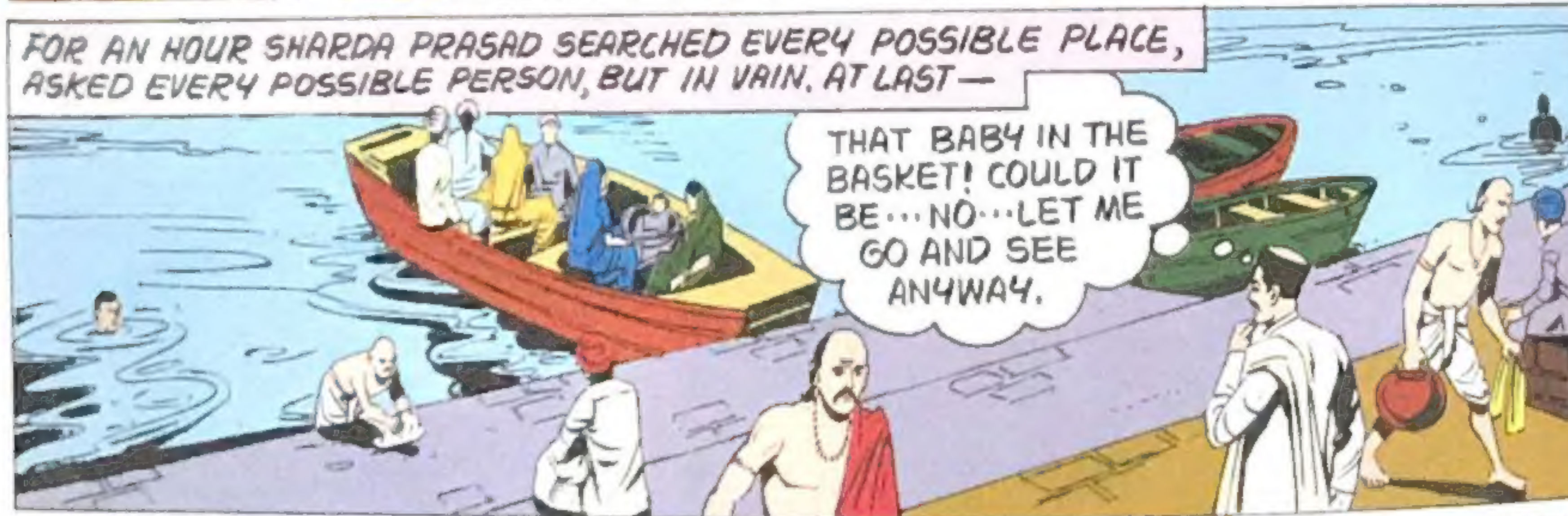


YOUR FOUR-MONTH OLD SON LOST? HOW DOES HE LOOK?

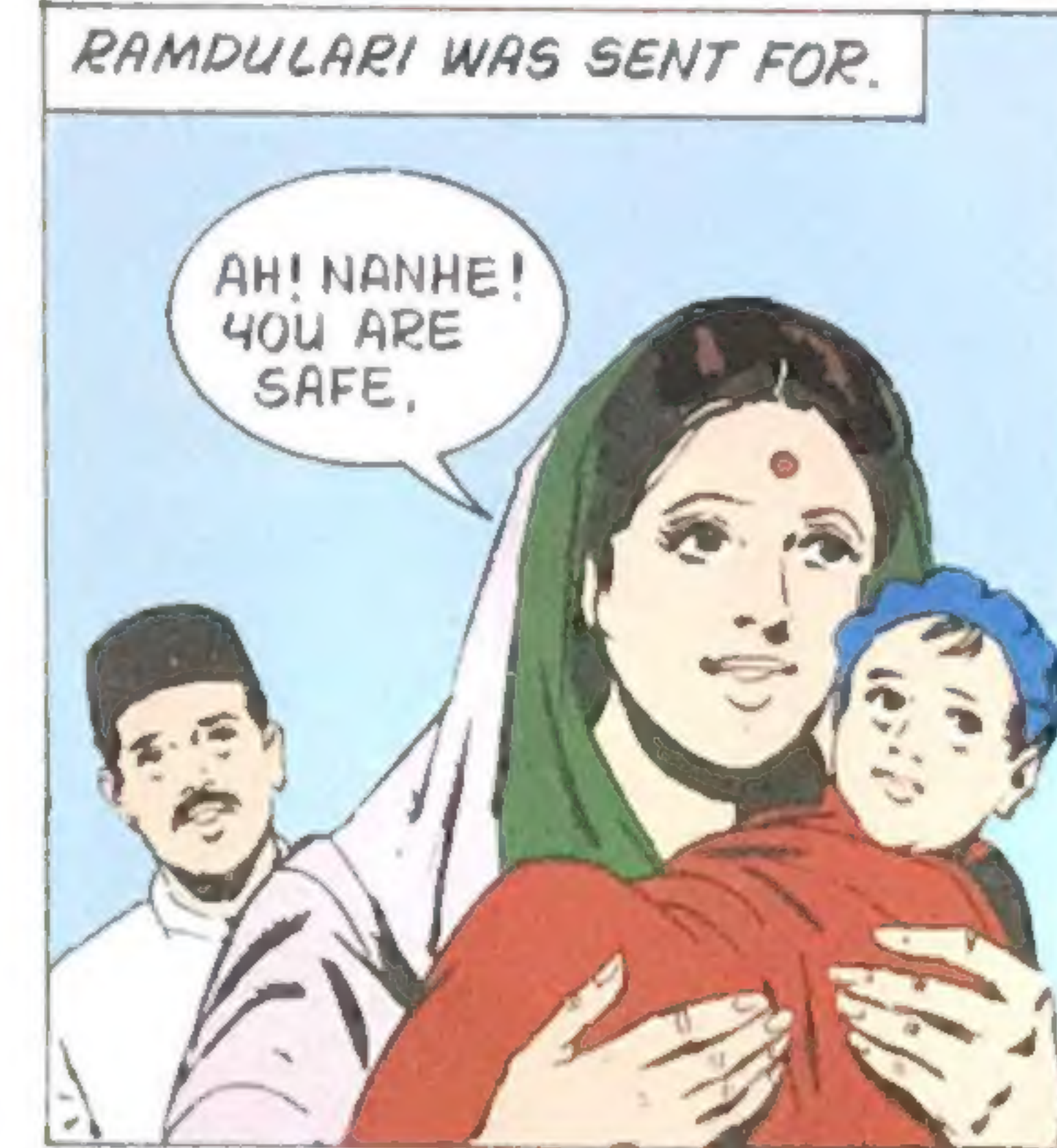
SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE TAKEN HIM HOME. YOU'LL FIND HIM, DON'T WORRY.



FOR AN HOUR SHARDA PRASAD SEARCHED EVERY POSSIBLE PLACE, ASKED EVERY POSSIBLE PERSON, BUT IN VAIN. AT LAST —

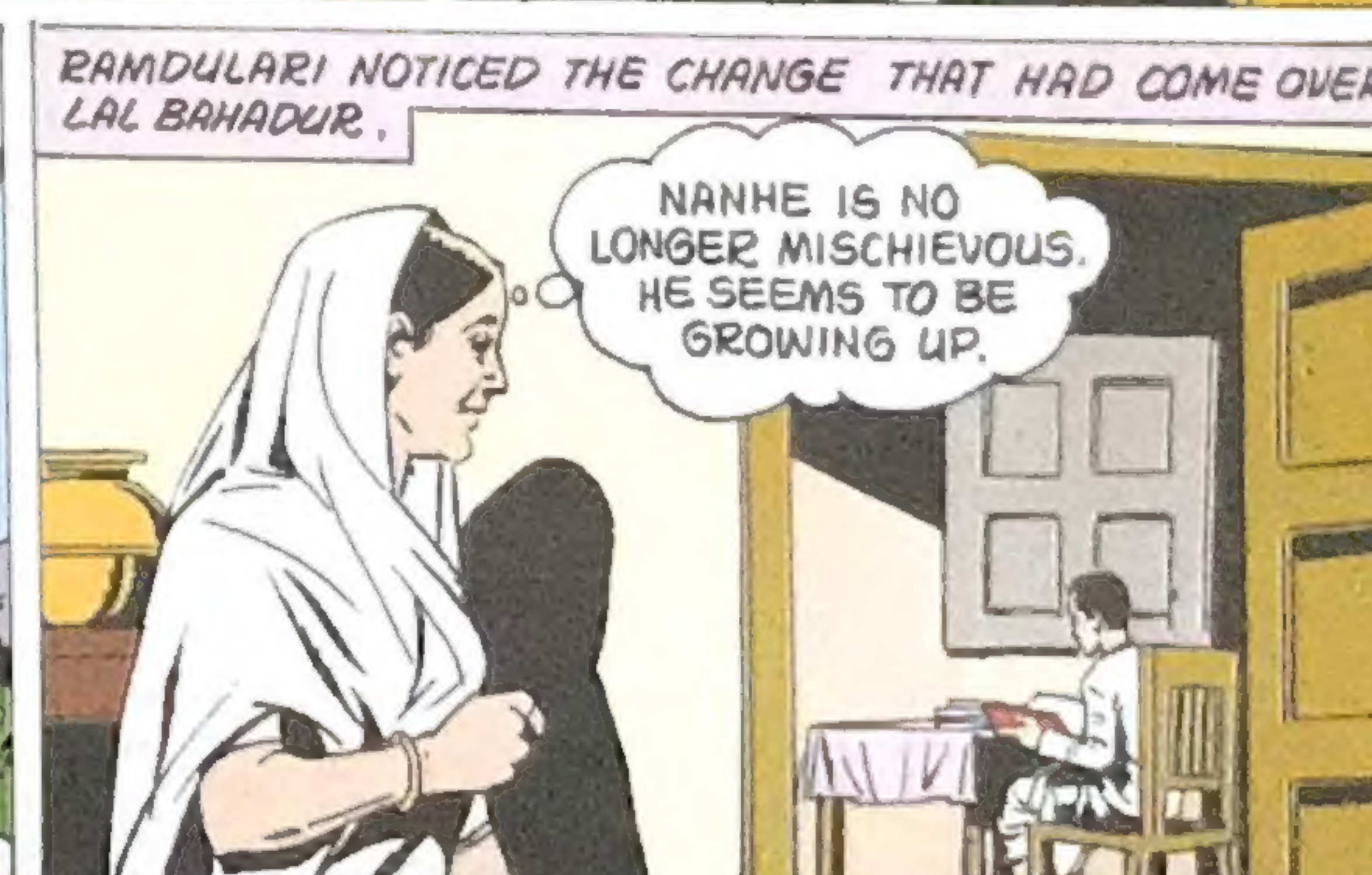
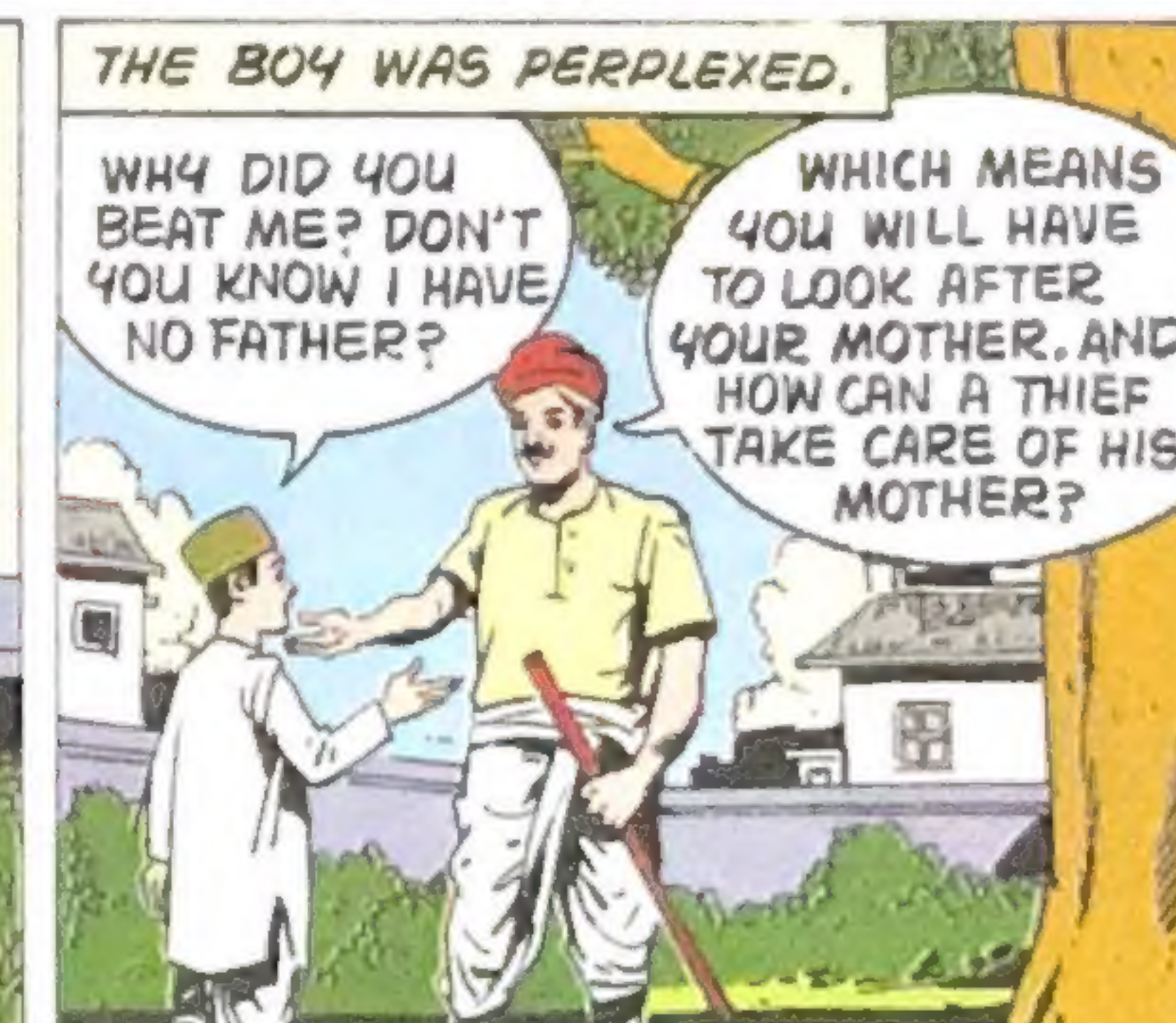
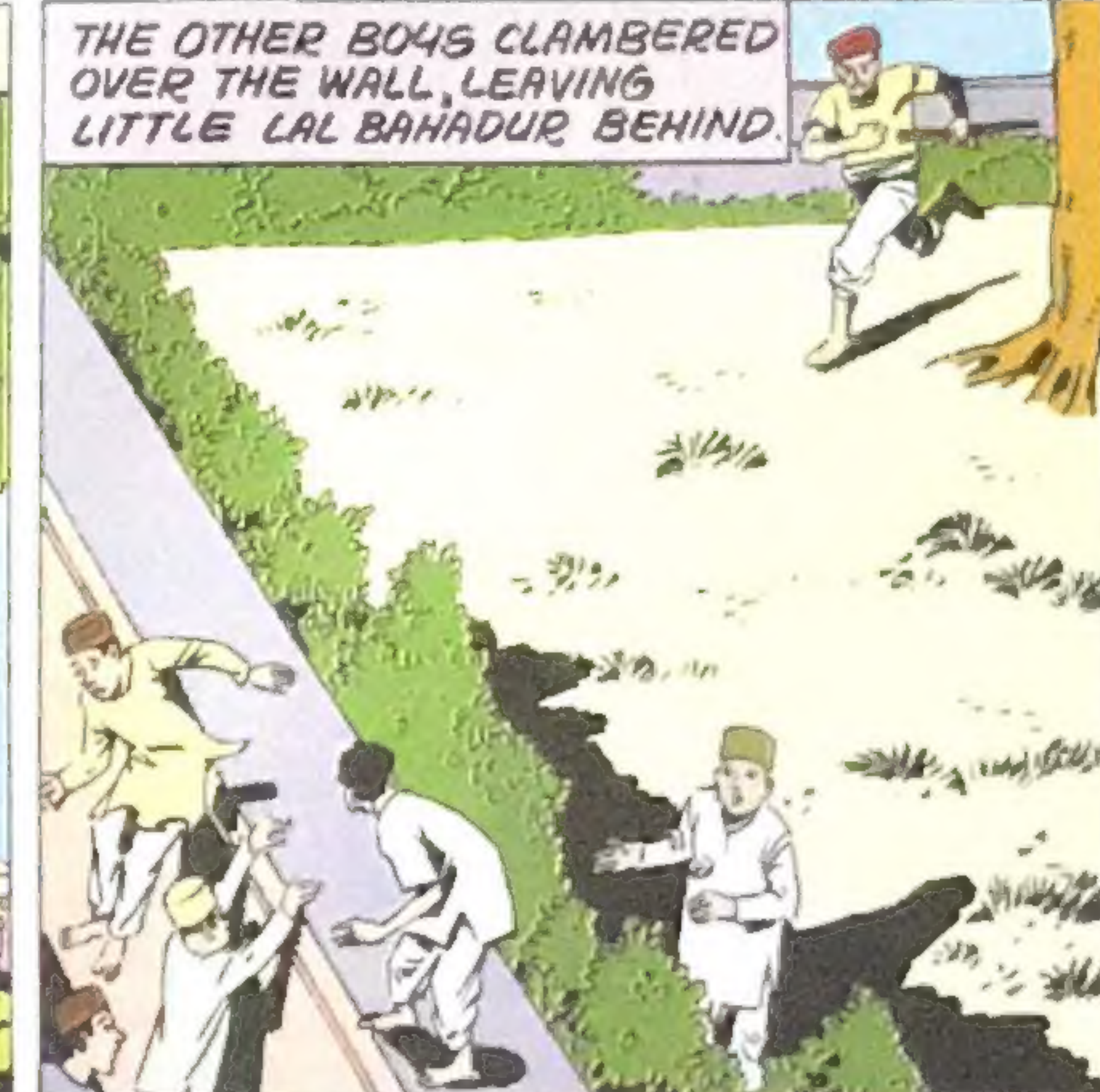
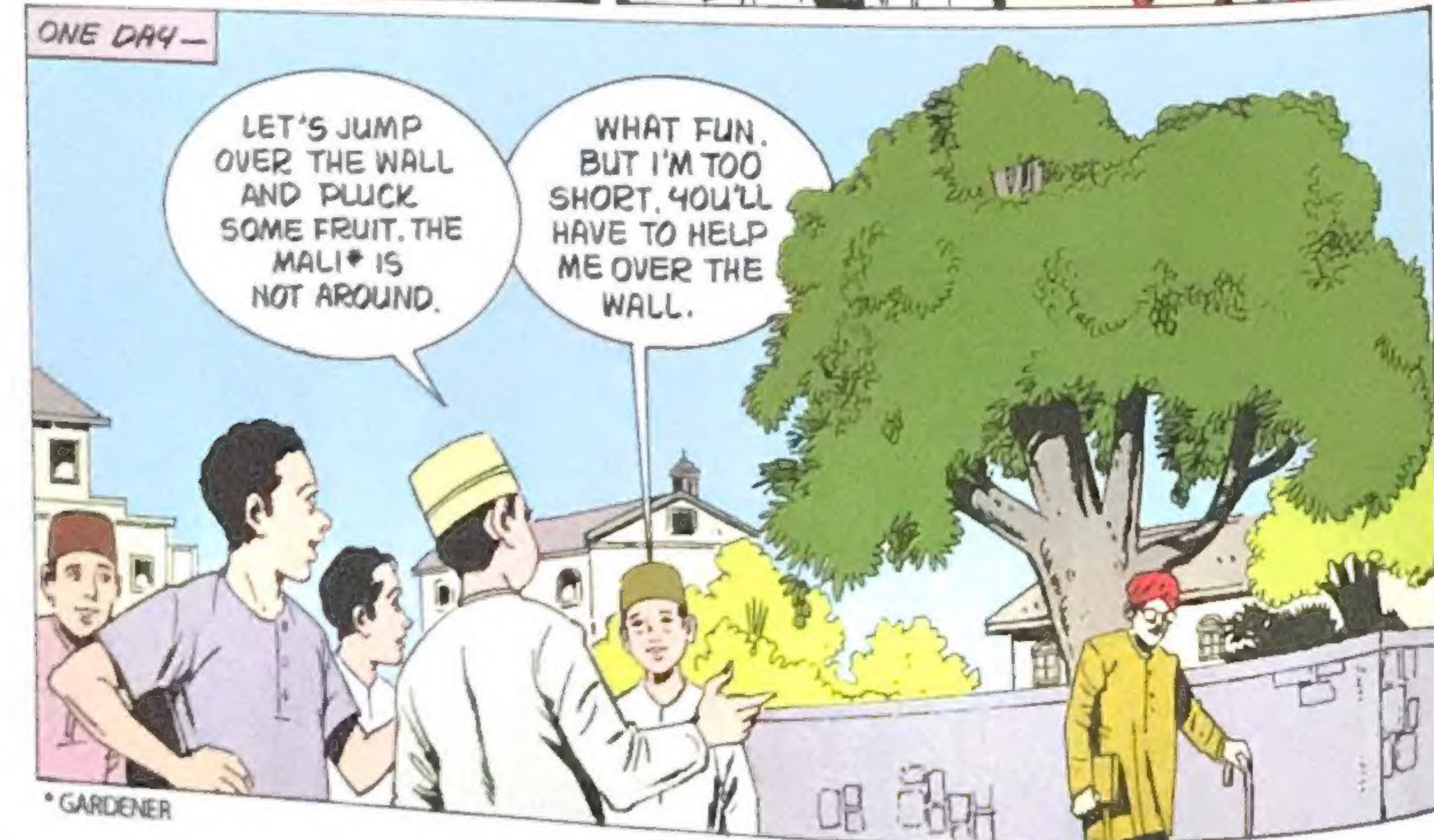
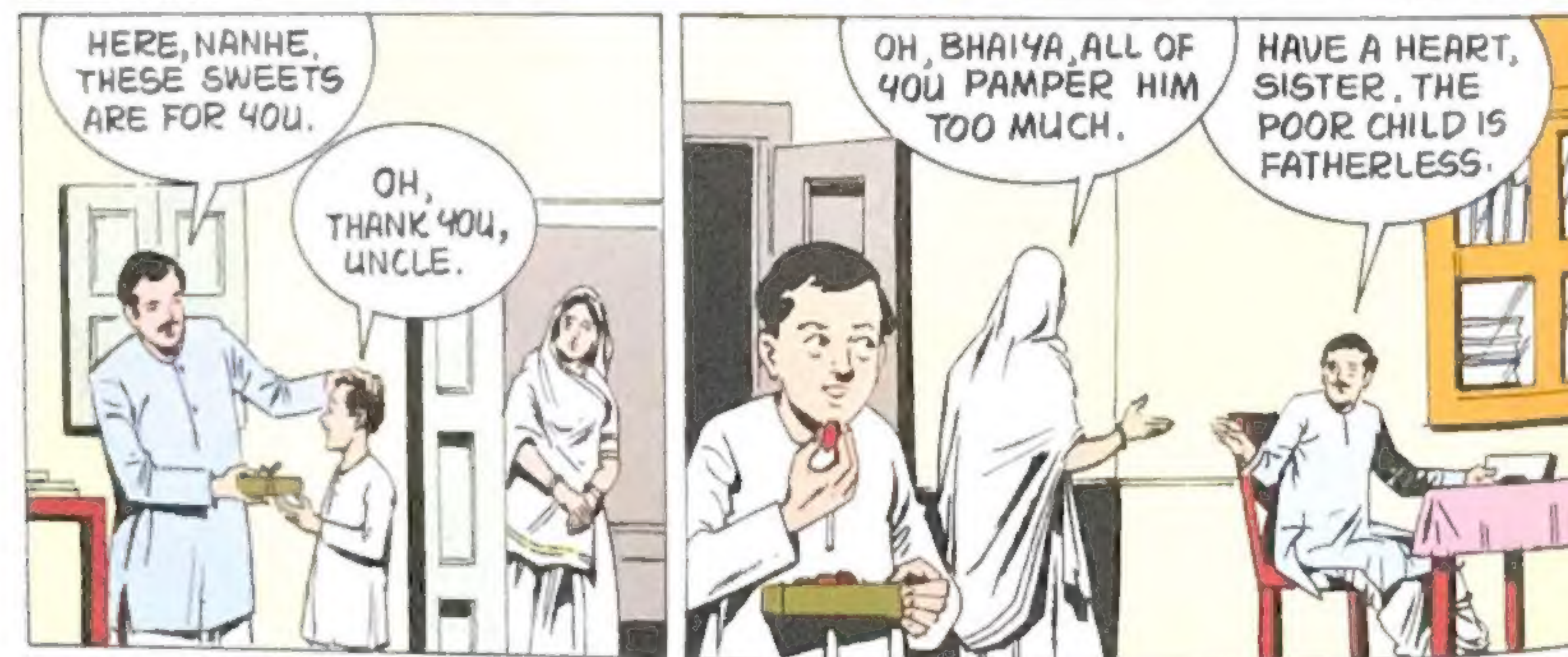
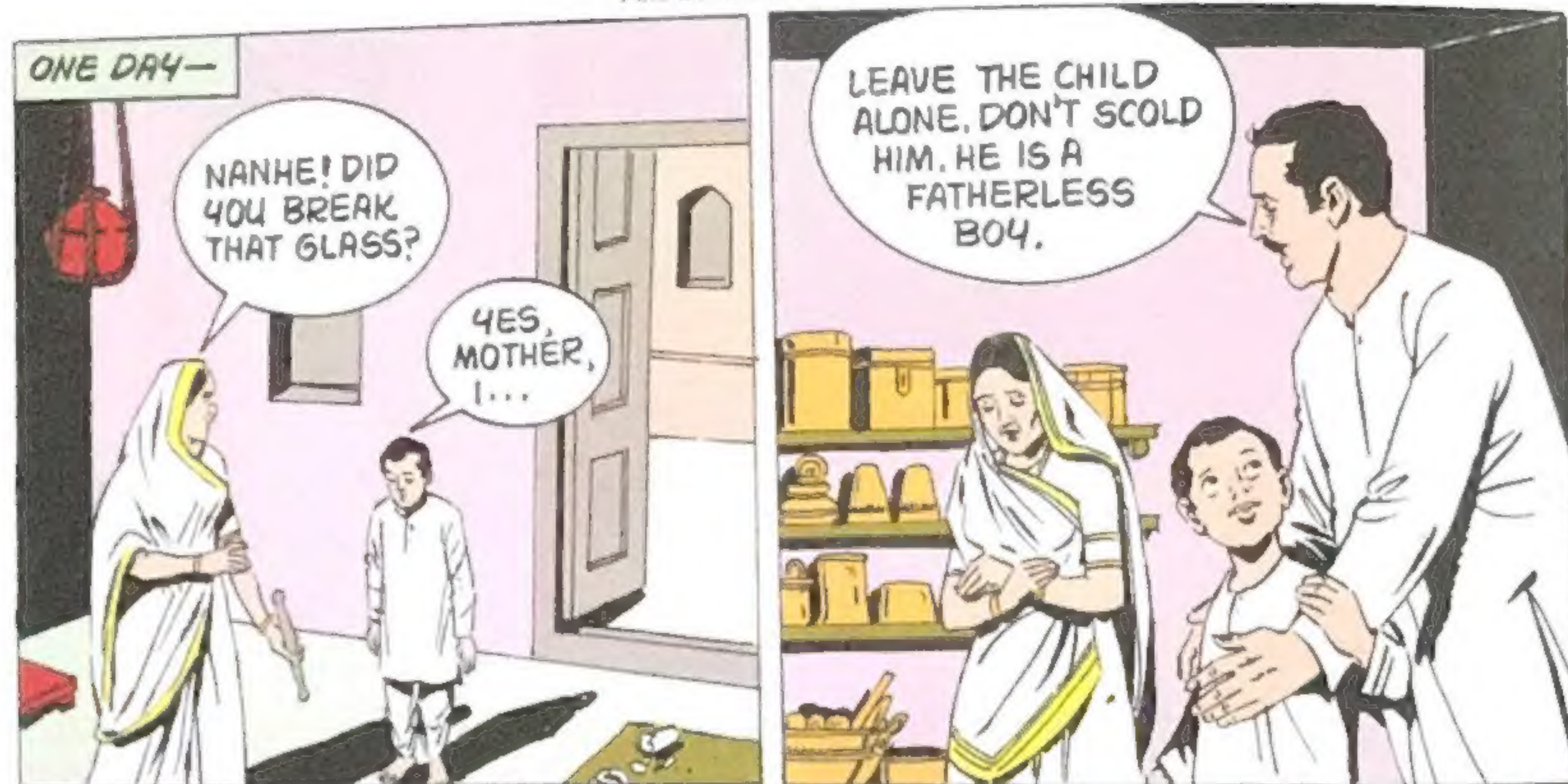


RAMDULARI WAS SENT FOR.

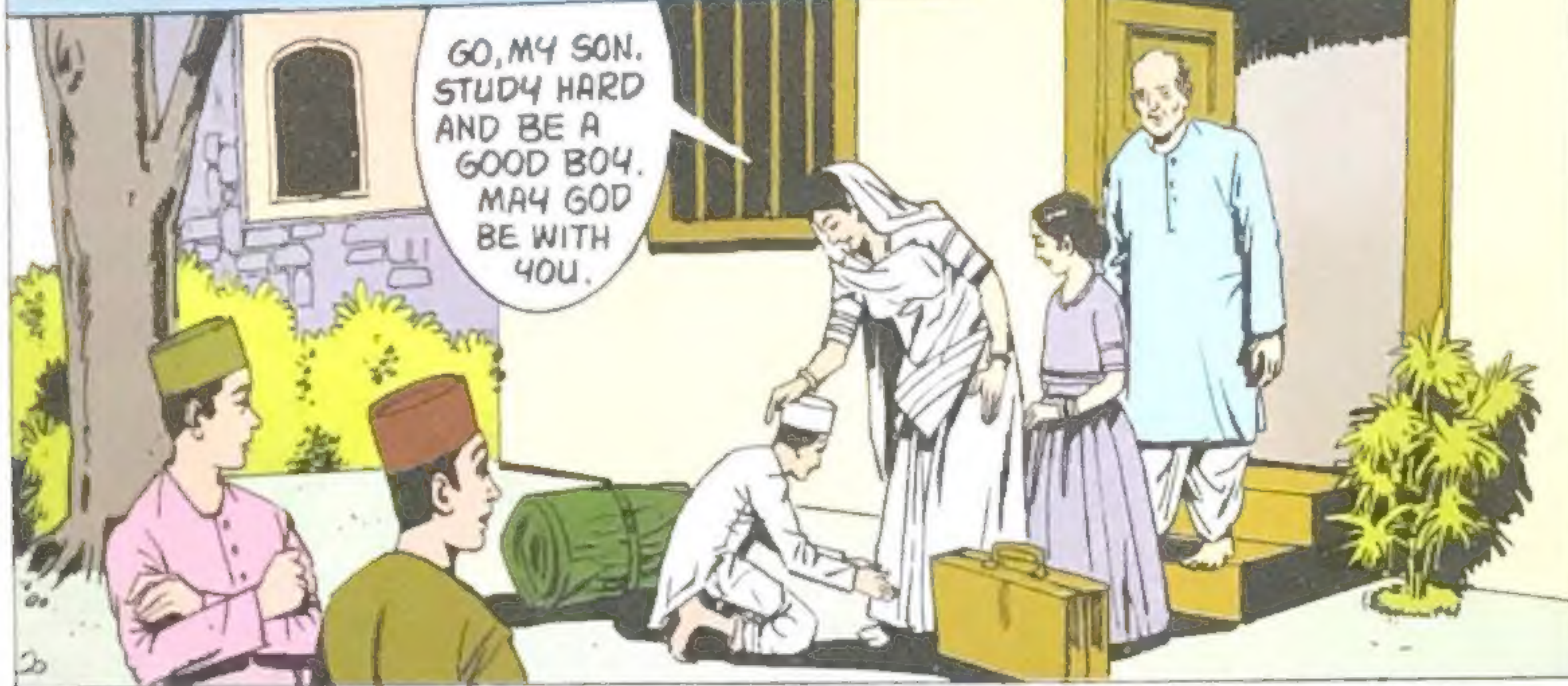


LAL BAHADUR WAS BARELY ONE AND A HALF YEARS OLD WHEN HIS FATHER DIED. HE GREW UP IN HIS GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE AT MUGHALSARAI AND WENT TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL.





WHEN LAL BAHADUR PASSED HIS SIXTH STANDARD HIS UNCLE DECIDED TO SEND HIM TO A SCHOOL AT VARANASI.



GO, MY SON. STUDY HARD AND BE A GOOD BOY. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU.

IN VARANASI LAL BAHADUR FELT LONELY. THE PEOPLE HE STAYED WITH WERE NOT KIND TO HIM.

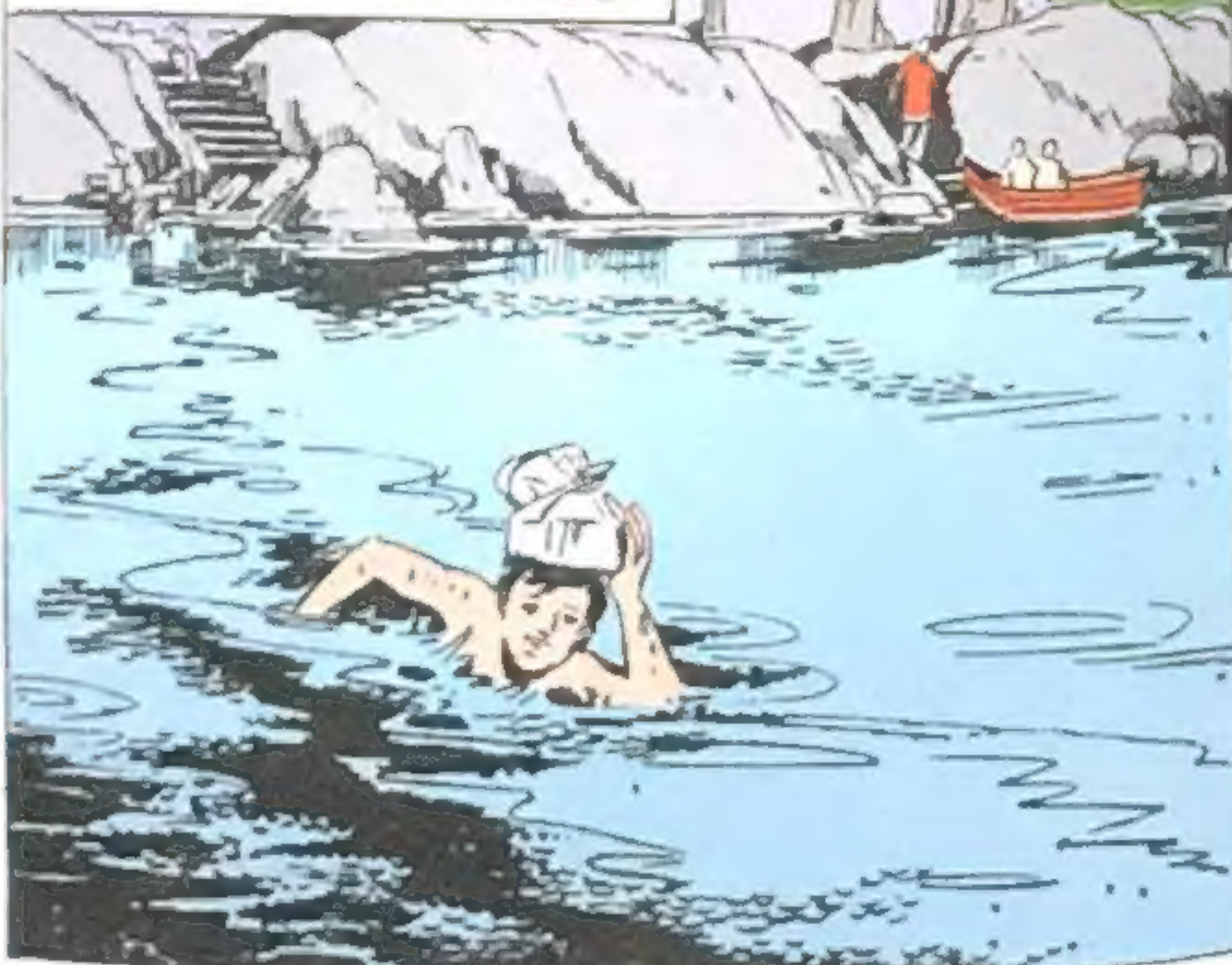


NANHE, GET ME SOME TEA FROM THE MARKET AND THEN SWEEP THE ROOM.

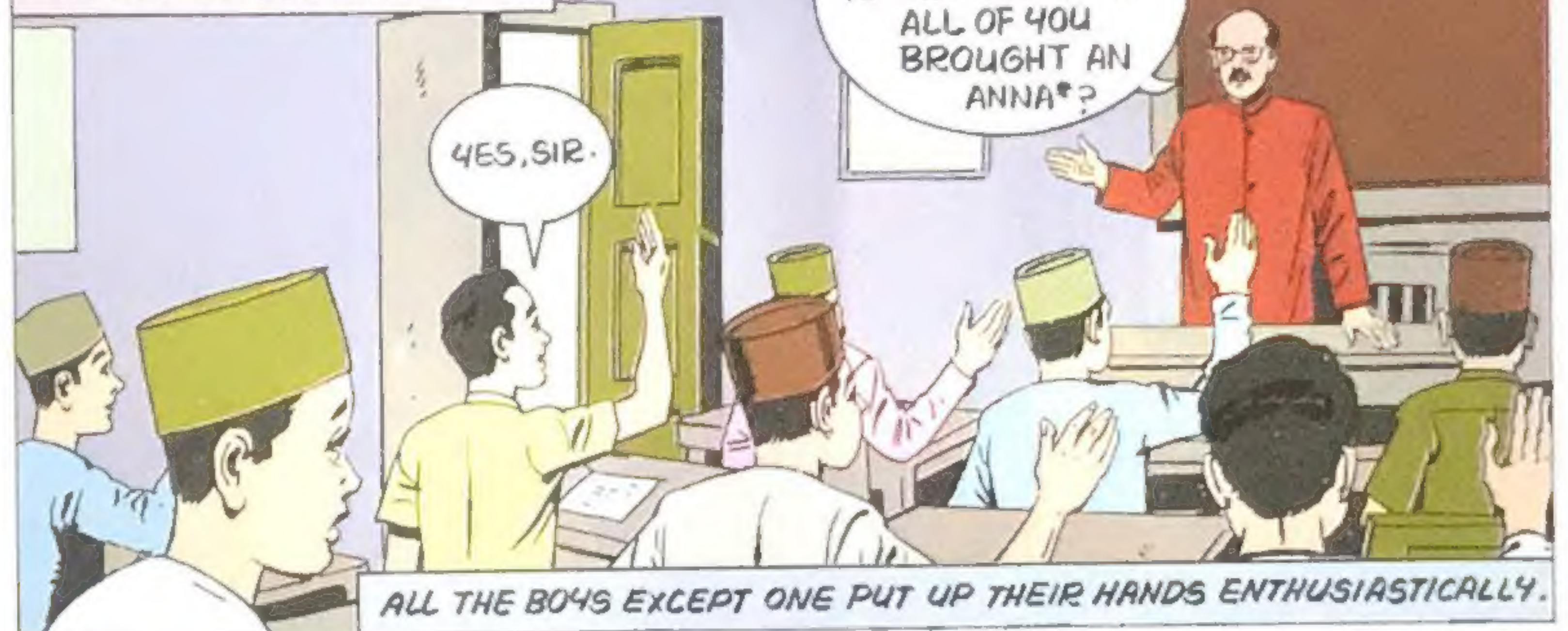
AFTER DOING THE HOUSEHOLD WORK HE WOULD LEAVE FOR HIS SCHOOL ACROSS THE RIVER.



SOMETIMES HE WOULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE BOATMAN. AT SUCH TIMES HE WOULD SWIM ACROSS.



LAL BAHADUR DID NOT HAVE MANY FRIENDS EITHER. ONE DAY—



BOYS, LET'S GO TO THE FAIR. HAVE ALL OF YOU BROUGHT AN ANNA?

YES, SIR.

ALL THE BOYS EXCEPT ONE PUT UP THEIR HANDS ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

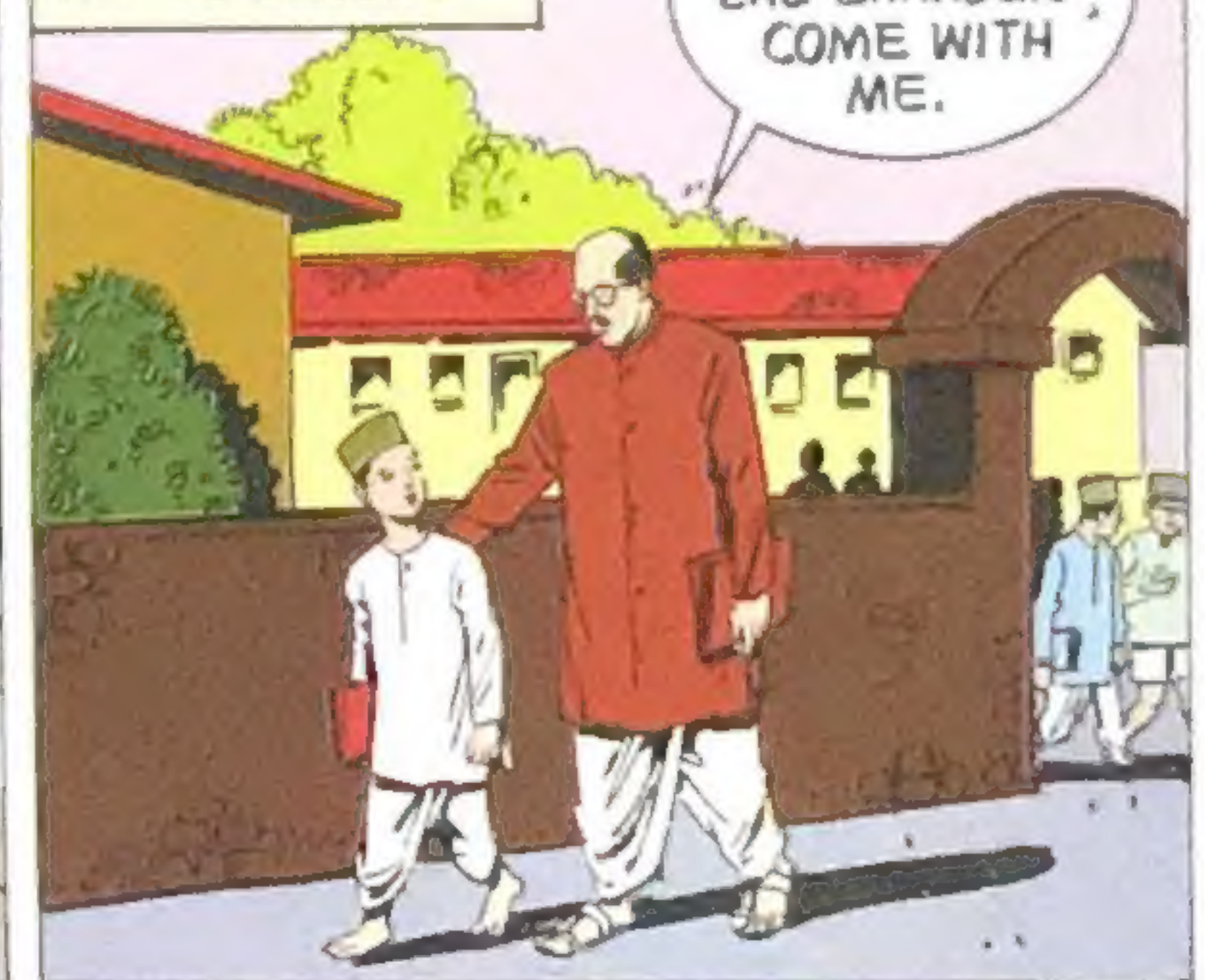
MISHRAJI, THE TEACHER, WENT UP TO HIM.



AREN'T YOU COMING, LAL BAHADUR?

ER... NO...

AFTER SCHOOL—

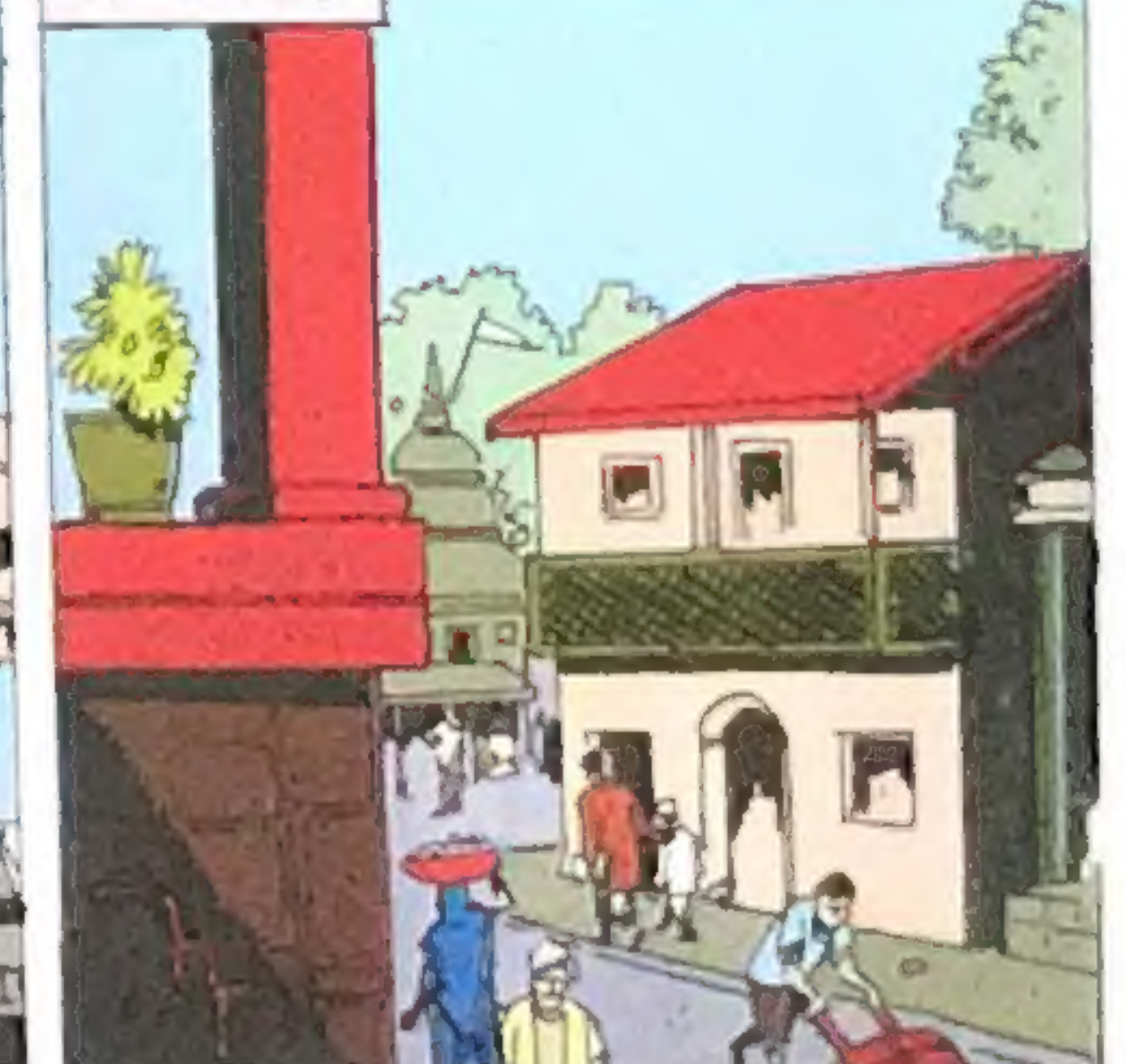


LAL BAHADUR, COME WITH ME.

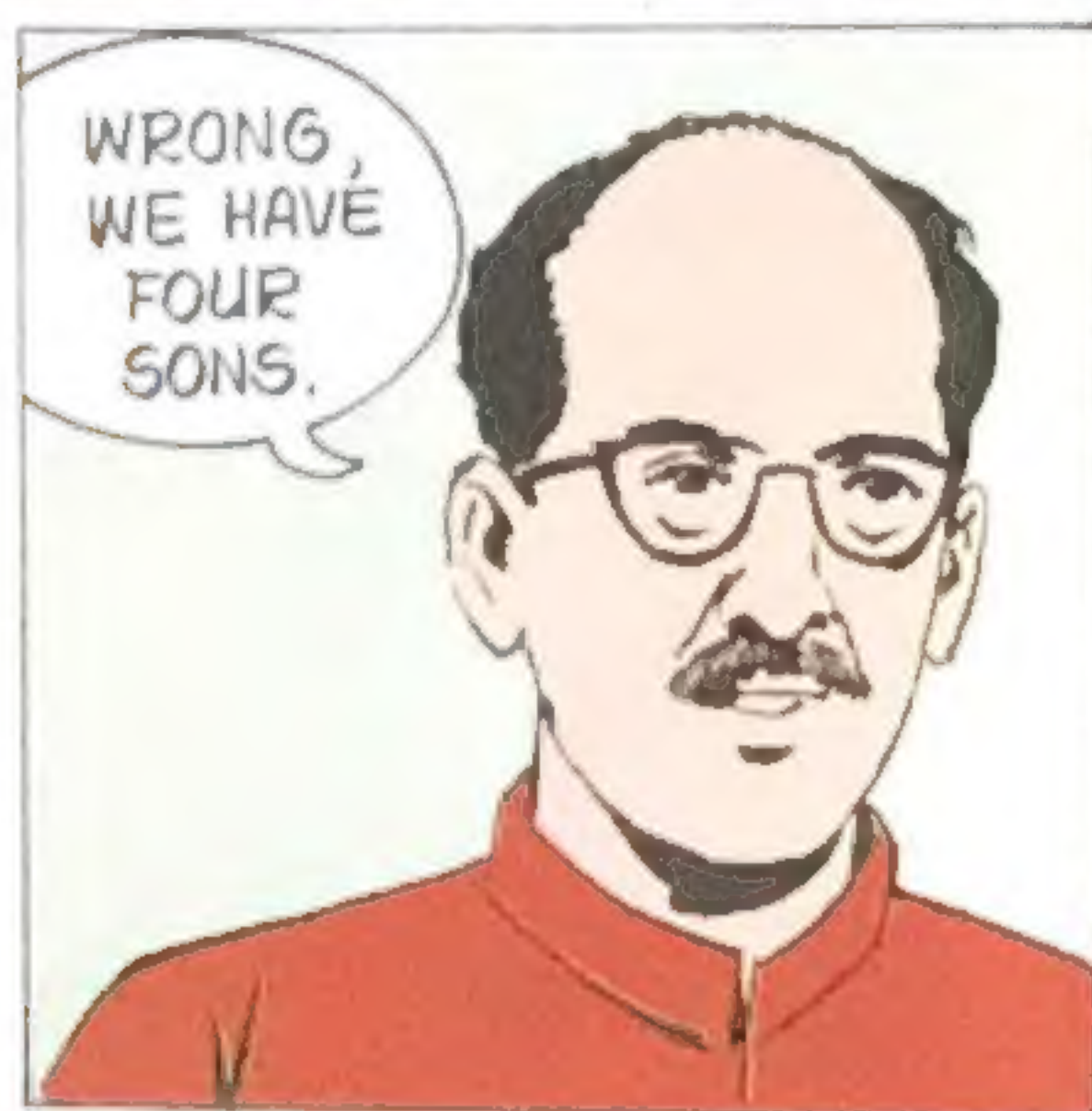


WHICH VILLAGE DO YOU COME FROM? WHERE ARE YOU STAYING?

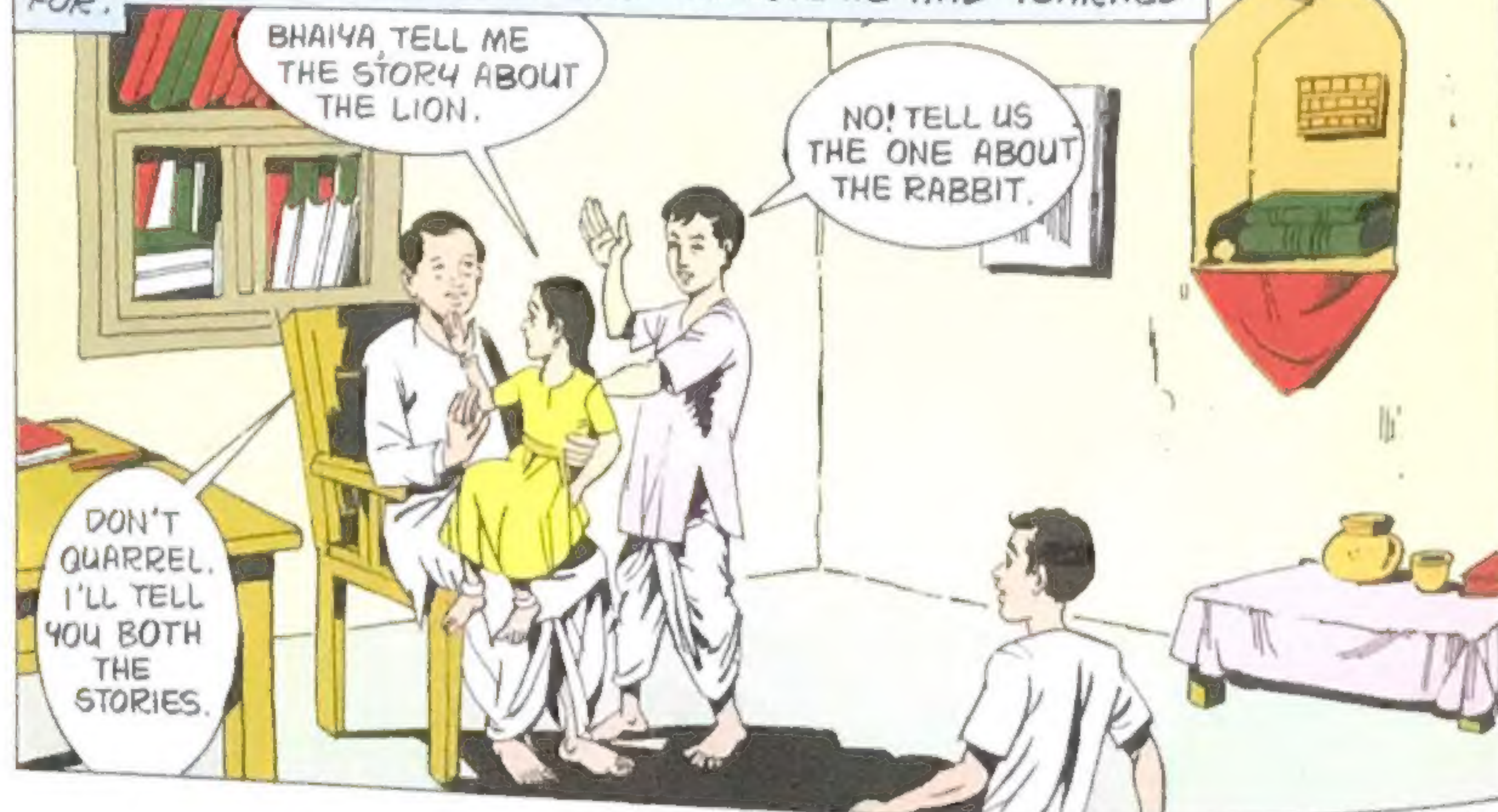
THE BOY BLURTED OUT HIS TALE OF WOE.



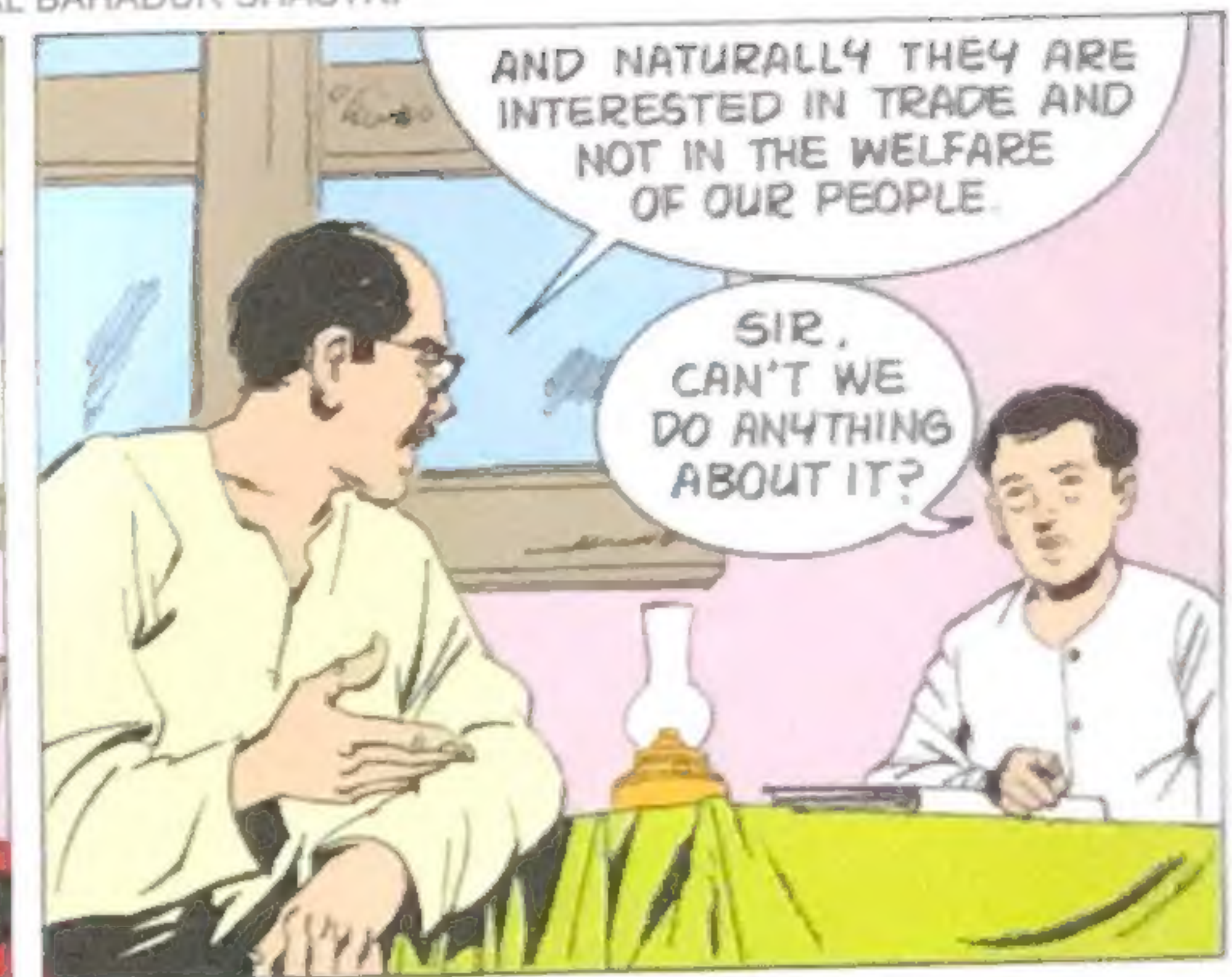
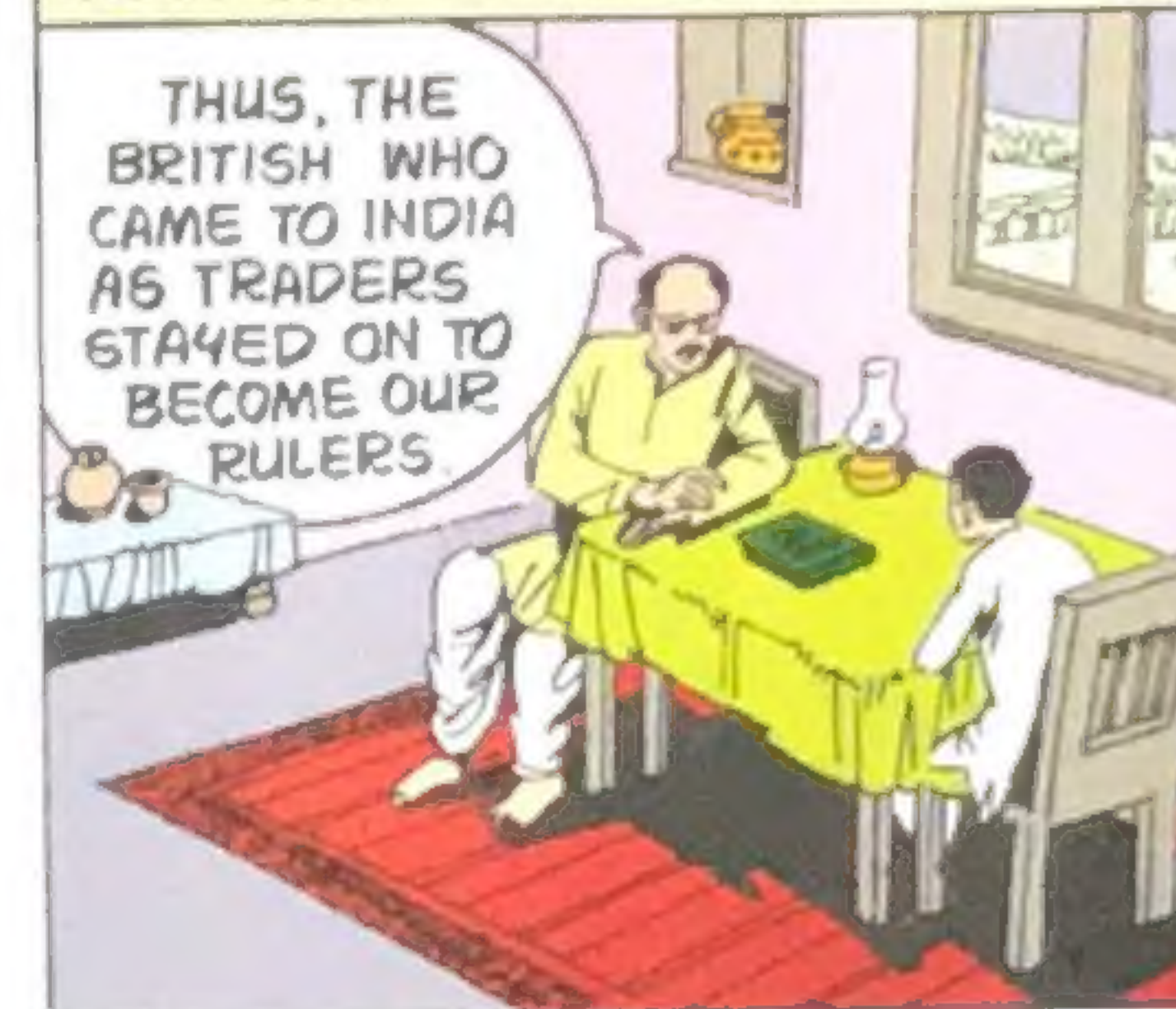
MISHRAJI TOOK LAL BAHADUR TO HIS OWN HOUSE.



THUS LAL BAHADUR FINALLY FOUND THE LOVE HE HAD YEARNED FOR.

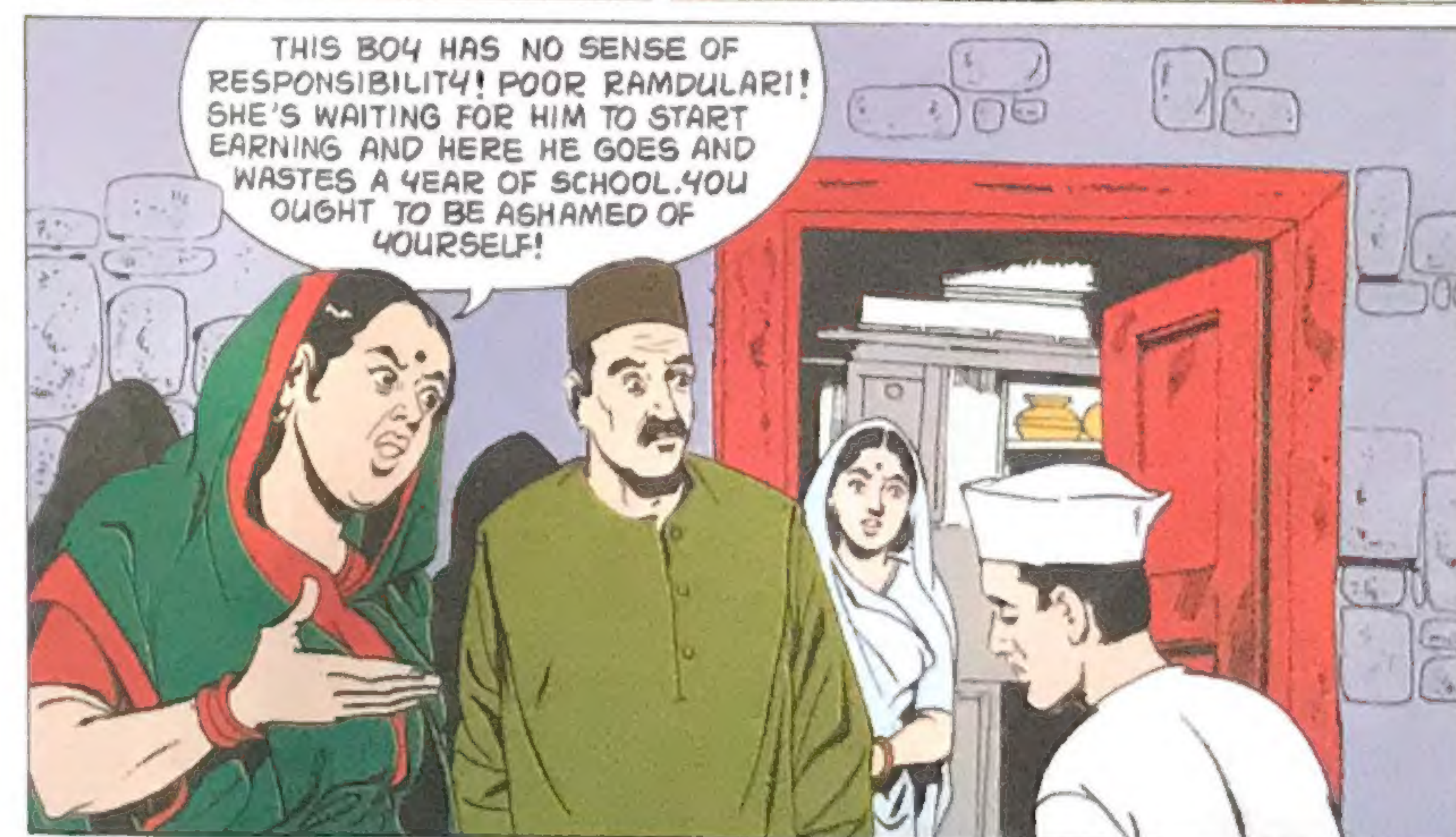
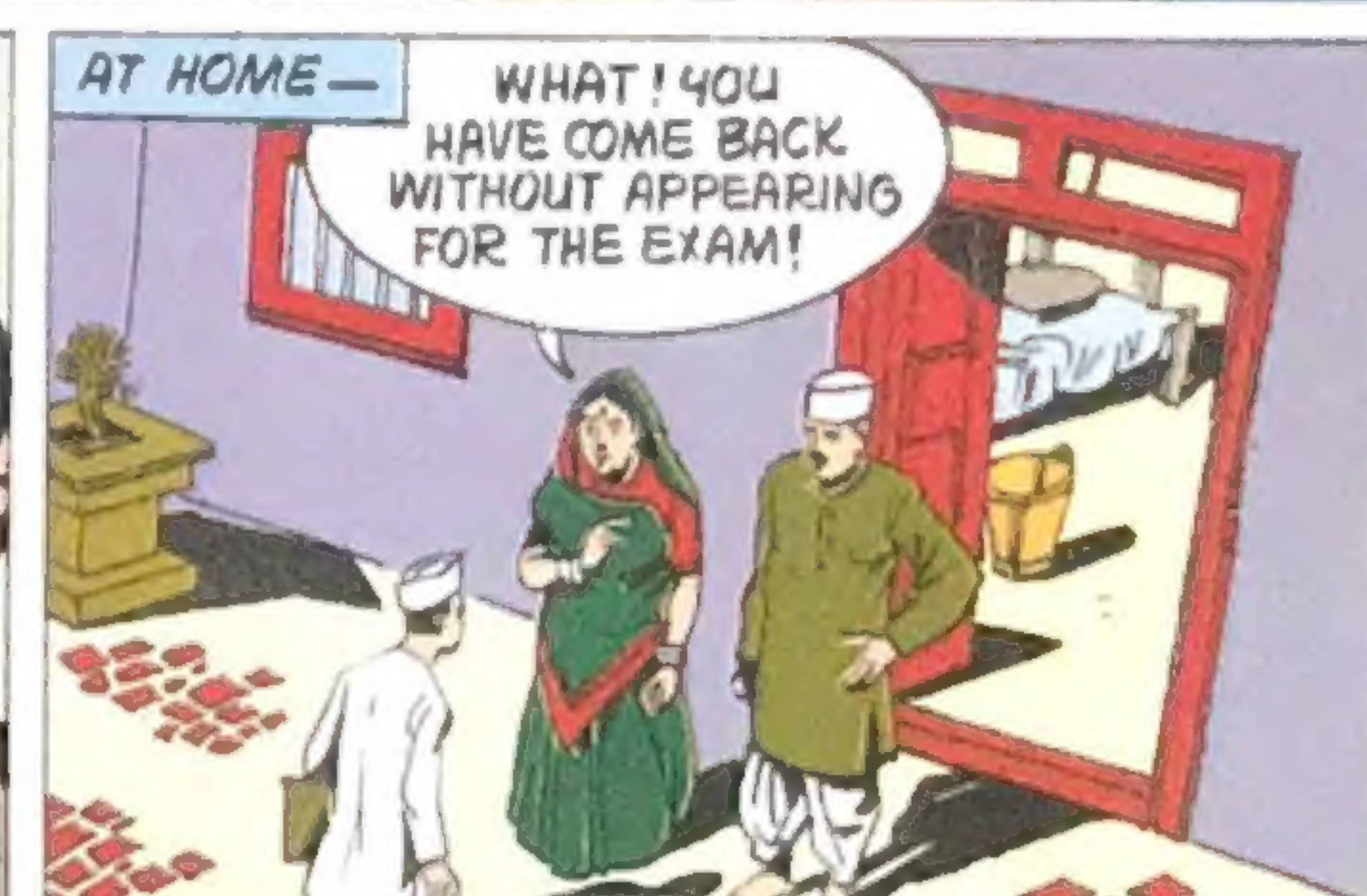
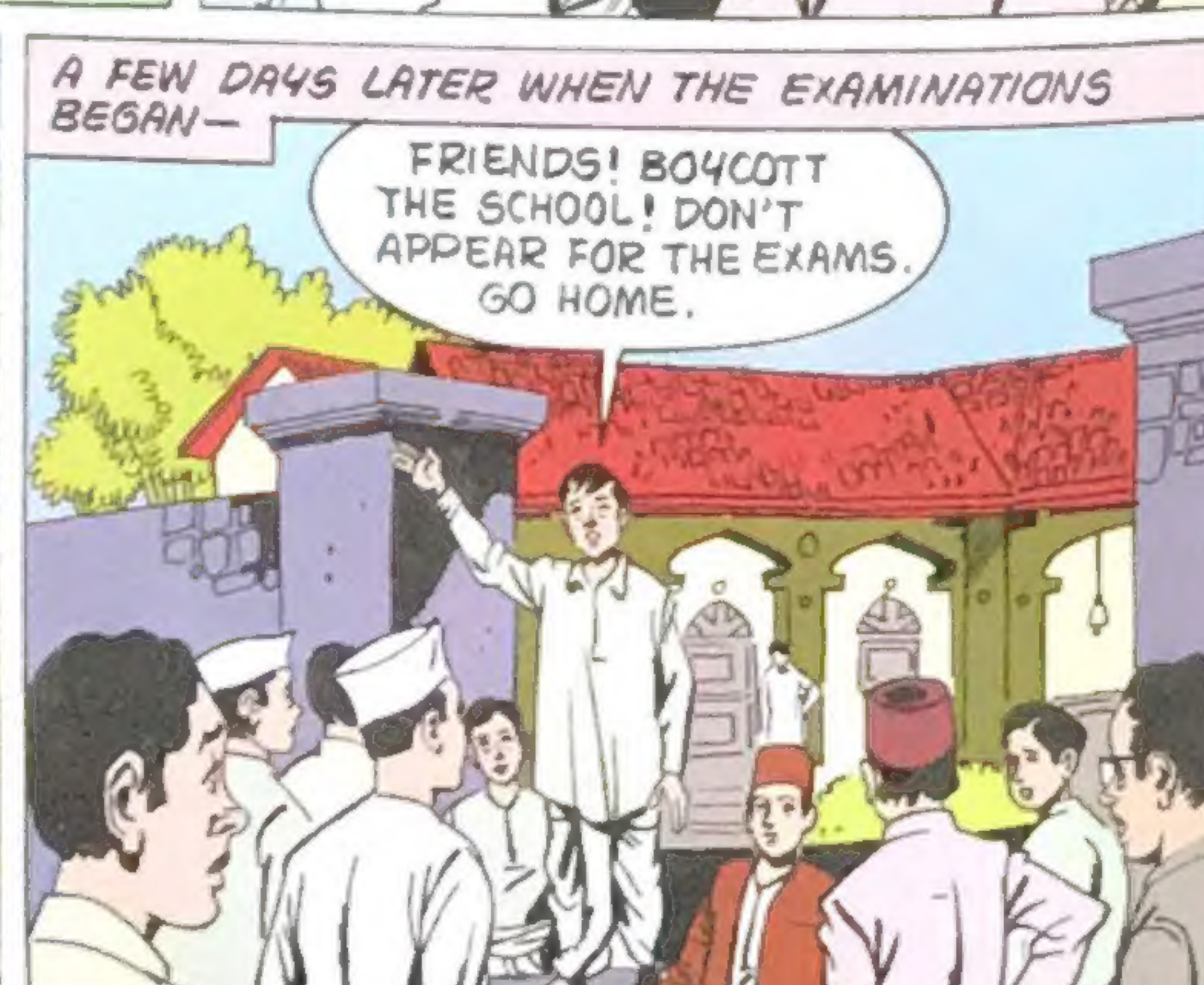
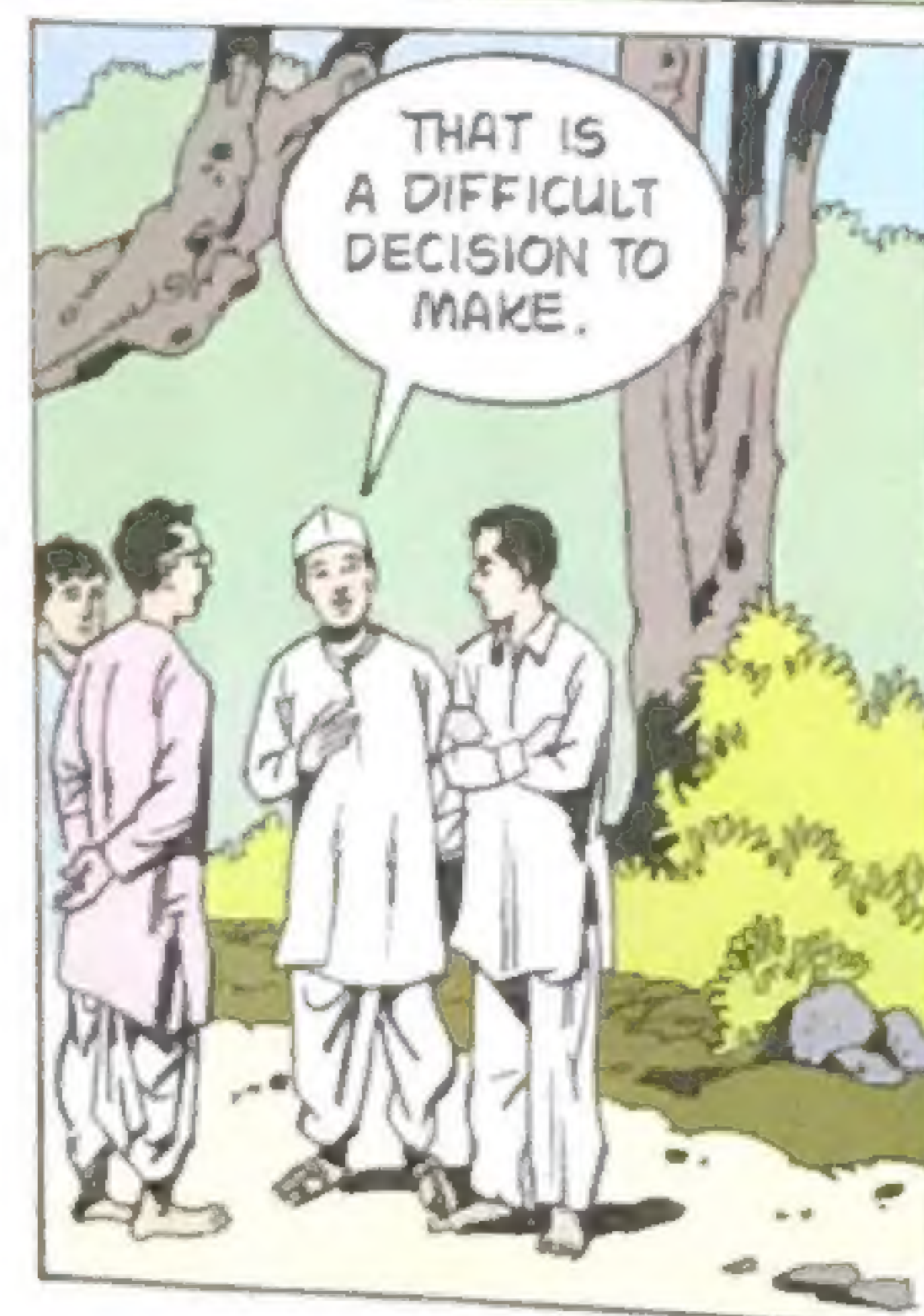
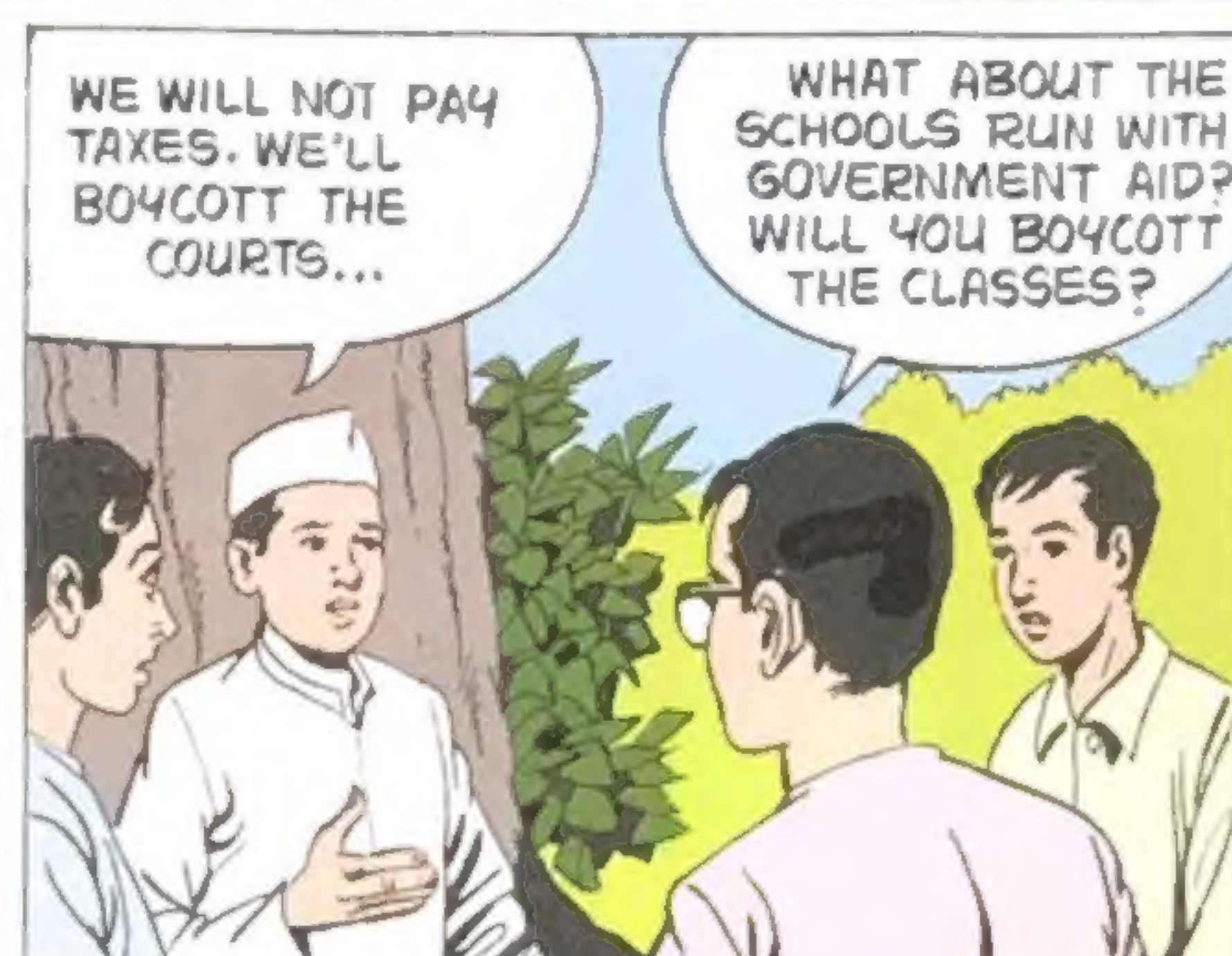
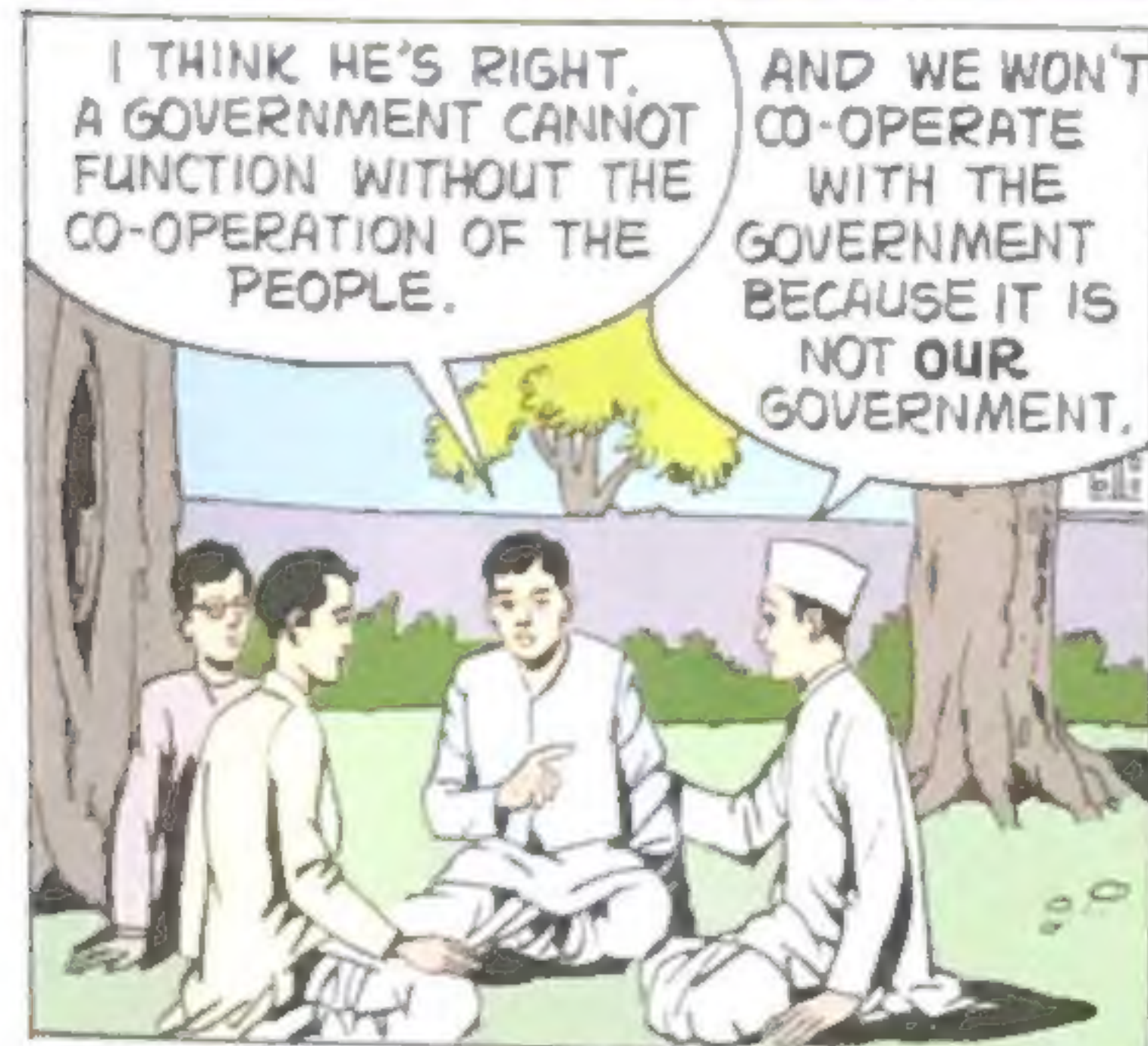


LAL BAHADUR HIMSELF WAS FOND OF LISTENING TO STORIES TOLD BY MISHRAJI — STORIES ABOUT HOW INDIA LOST HER FREEDOM.

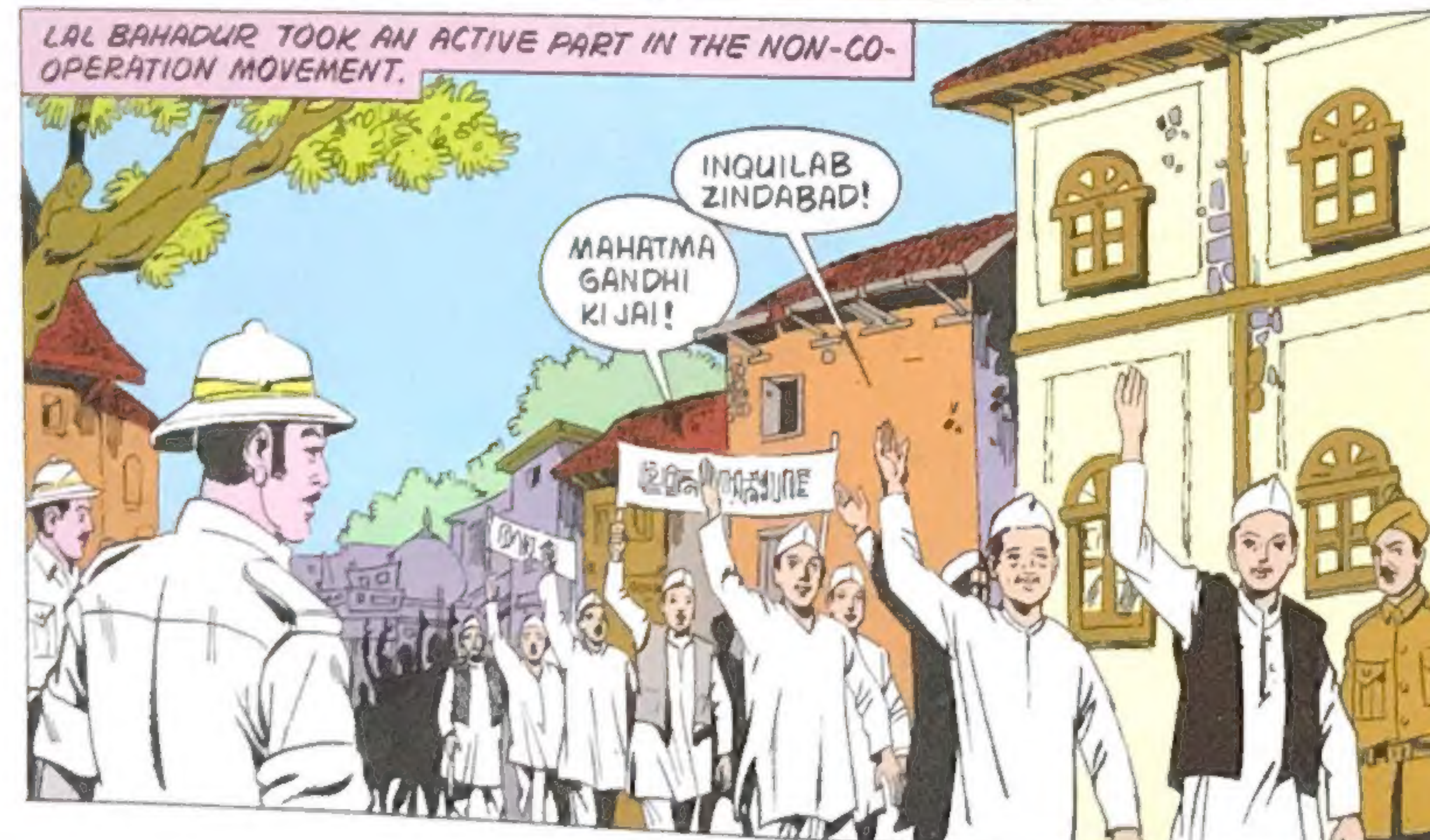
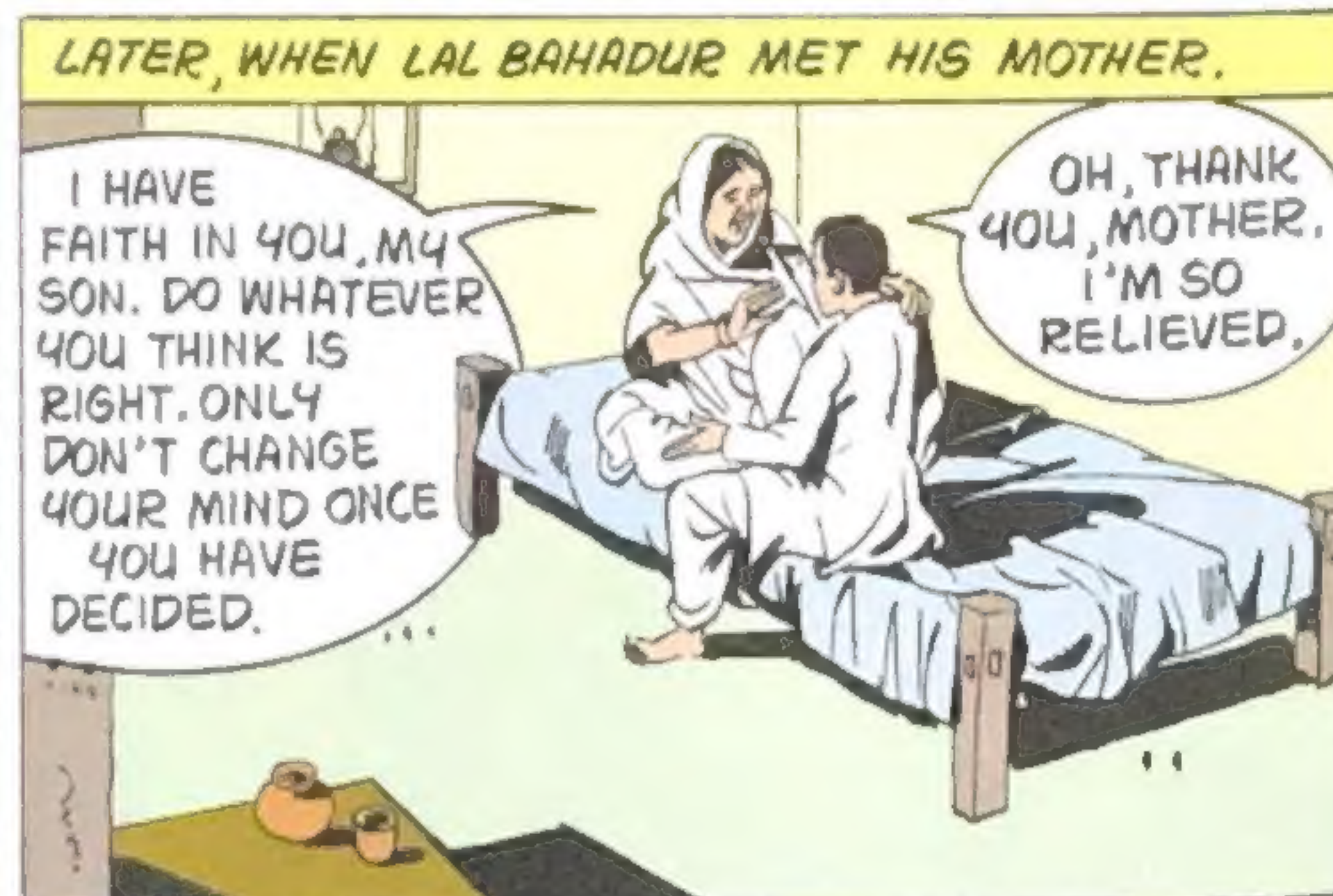


THEN GANDHIJI CAME TO VARANASI.

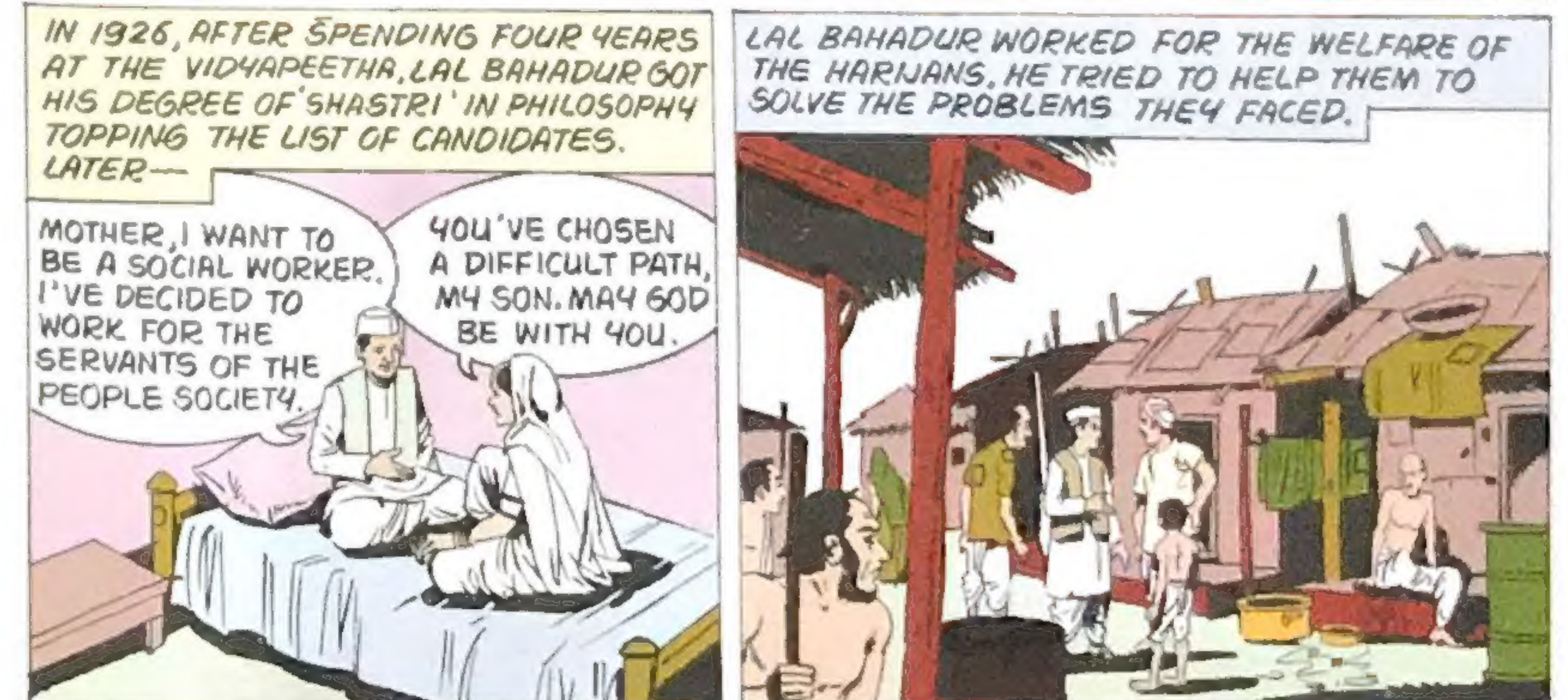
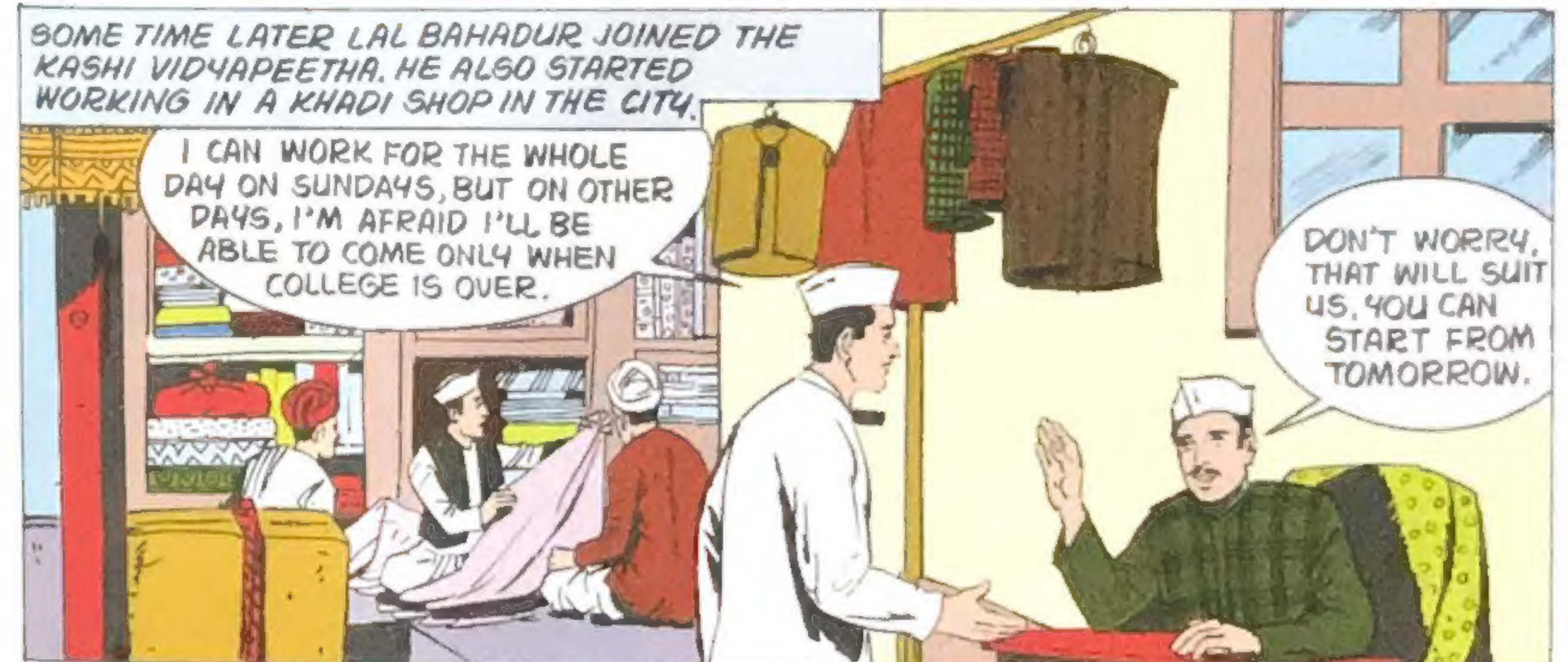
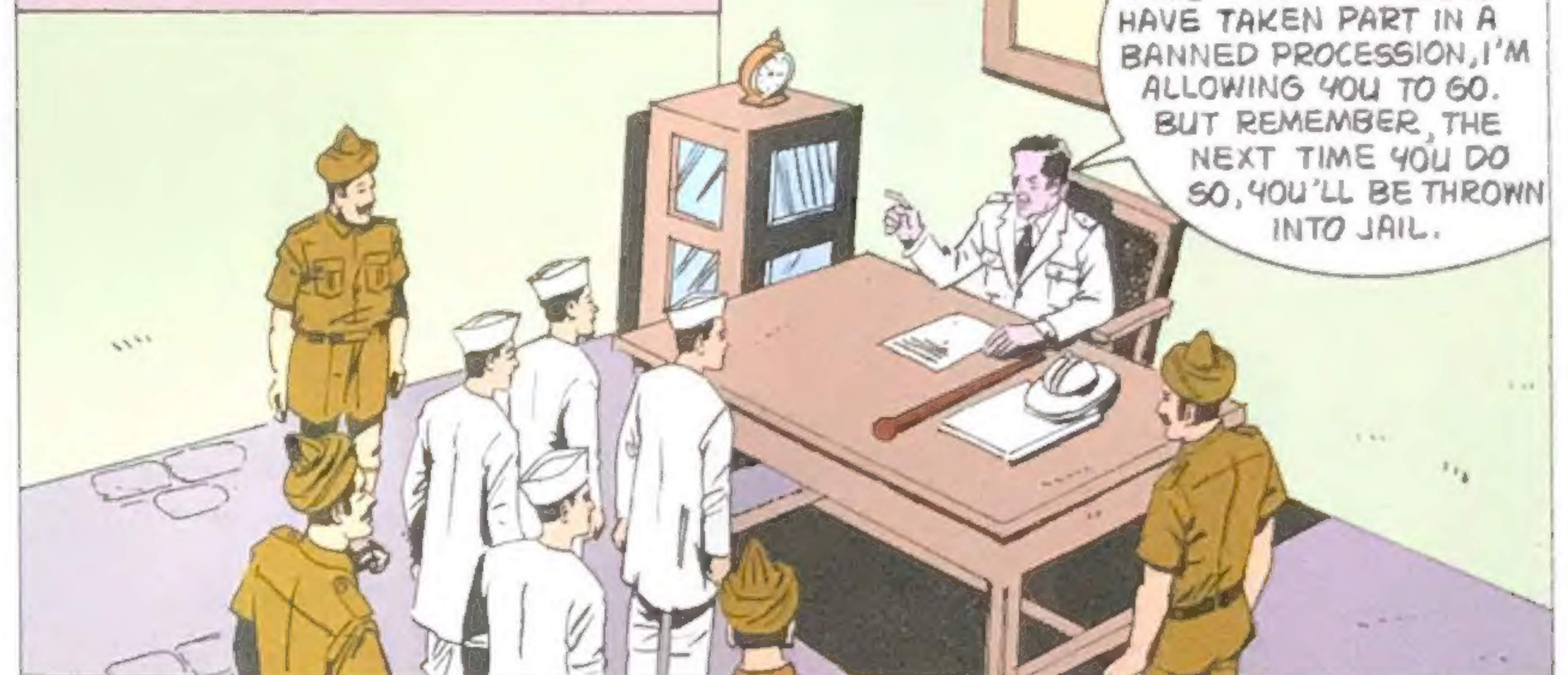




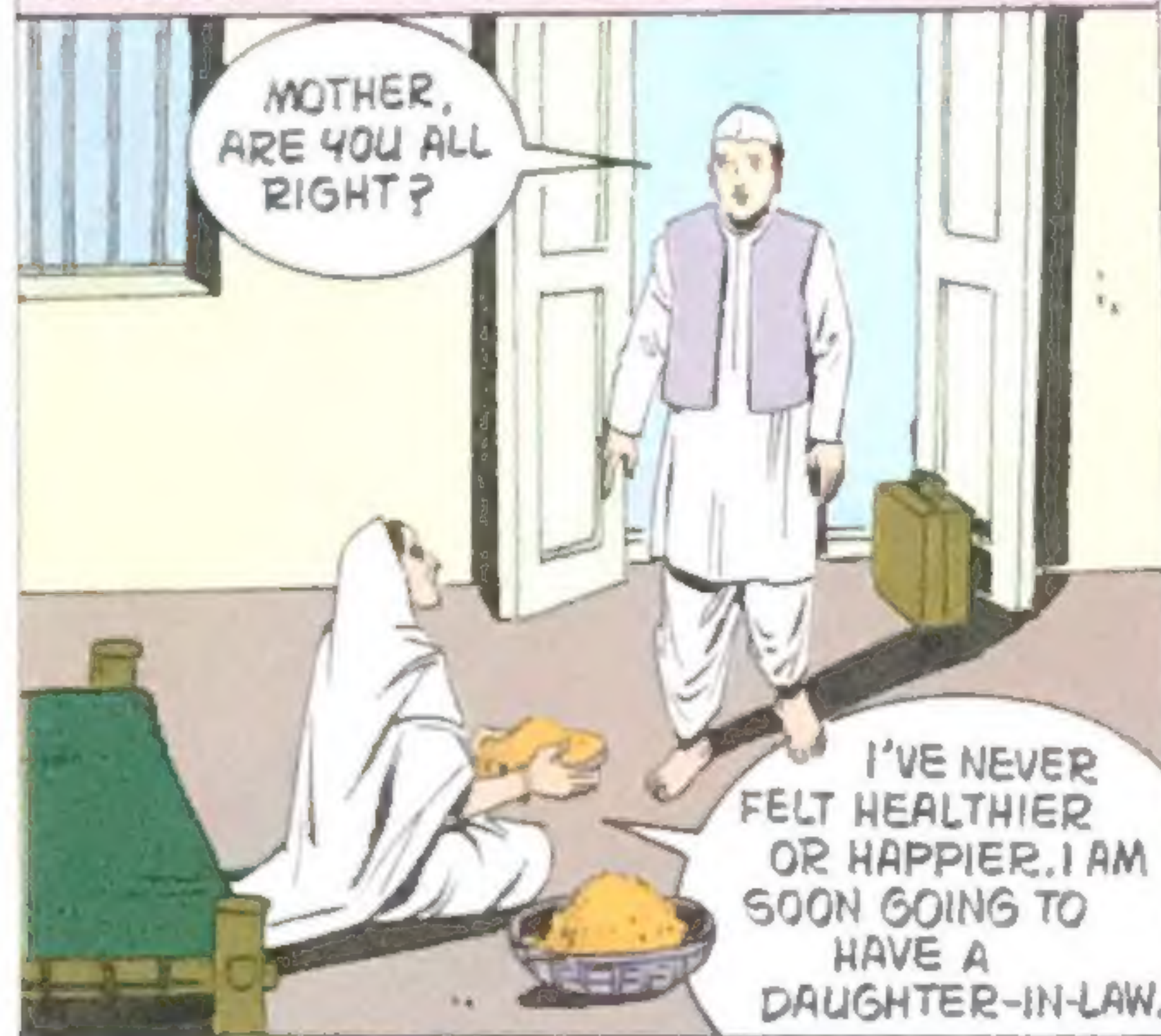
EVEN MISHRAJI DID NOT APPROVE OF LAL BAHADUR'S ACTION.



ALONG WITH OTHER STUDENTS HE TOO WAS ARRESTED, BUT WAS LET OFF WITH A WARNING.



ONE DAY, TWO YEARS LATER, HE RUSHED HOME ON RECEIVING A TELEGRAM FROM HIS MOTHER.



MOTHER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

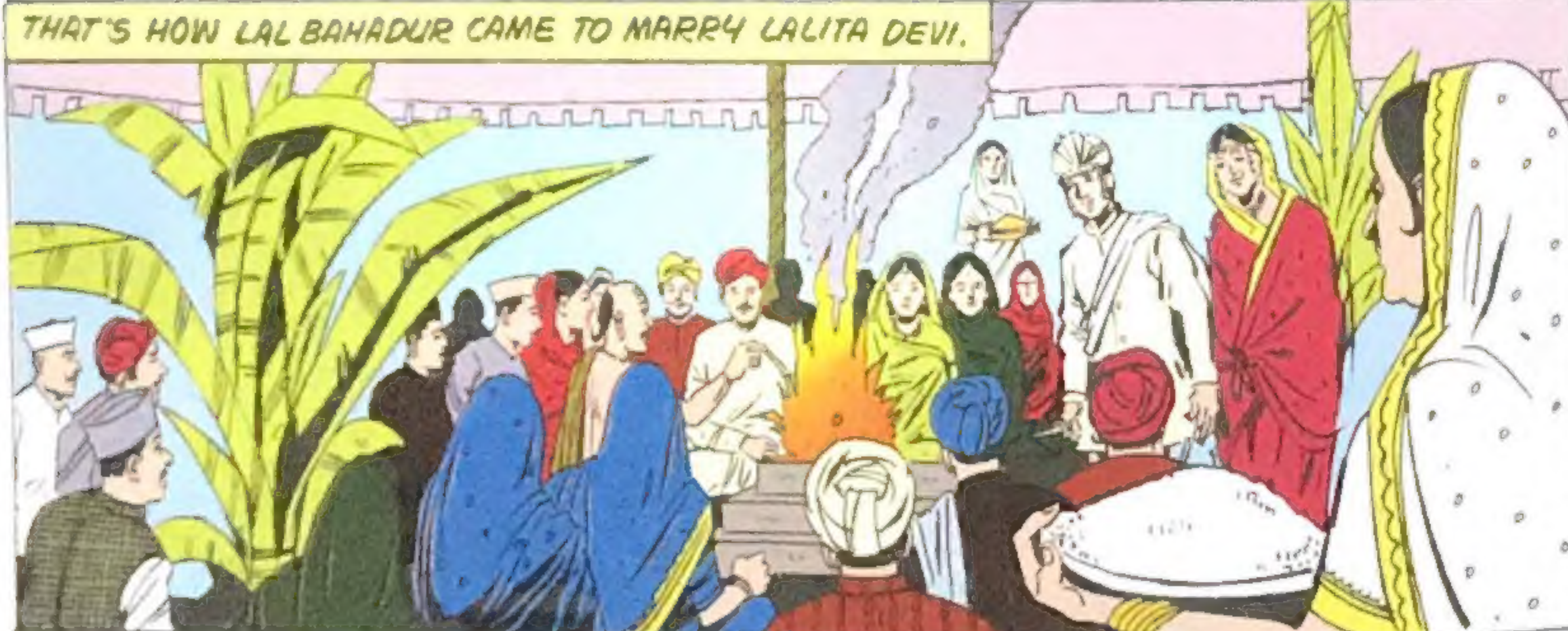
I'VE NEVER FELT HEALTHIER OR HAPPIER. I AM SOON GOING TO HAVE A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW?

YES, I HAVE CHOSEN A BRIDE FOR YOU.



THAT'S HOW LAL BAHADUR CAME TO MARRY LALITA DEVI.



LAL BAHADUR TOOK HIS BRIDE TO ALLAHABAD. AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT CONGRESS COMMITTEE HIS HOUSE WAS OPEN TO ALL.



WE HAVE A GUEST FOR DINNER.

FOR DINNER? BUT...

ALL RIGHT. LET'S NOT THINK OF OUR DINNER. WE'LL SERVE THE GUEST FIRST.

I KNEW YOU WOULD FIND A WAY.

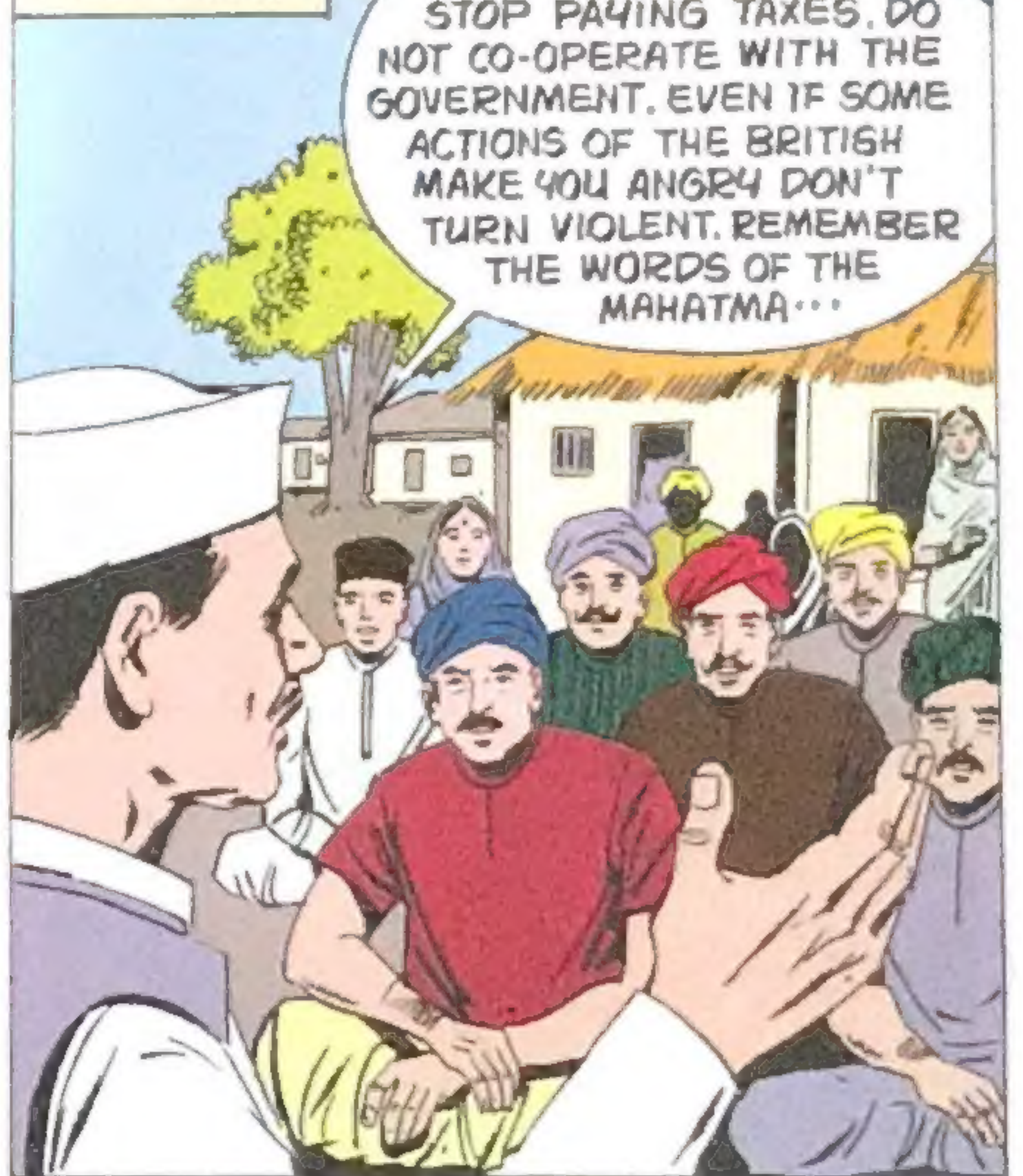


IN 1929, LAL BAHADUR ATTENDED THE HISTORIC LAHORE SESSION OF THE CONGRESS. LATER WHEN HE RETURNED TO ALLAHABAD—



THE CONGRESS HAS DECLARED "PURNA SWARAJYA" AS ITS GOAL. WE MUST GET READY FOR A LONG NON-VIOLENT BATTLE.

LAL BAHADUR ADDRESSED SEVERAL MEETINGS.



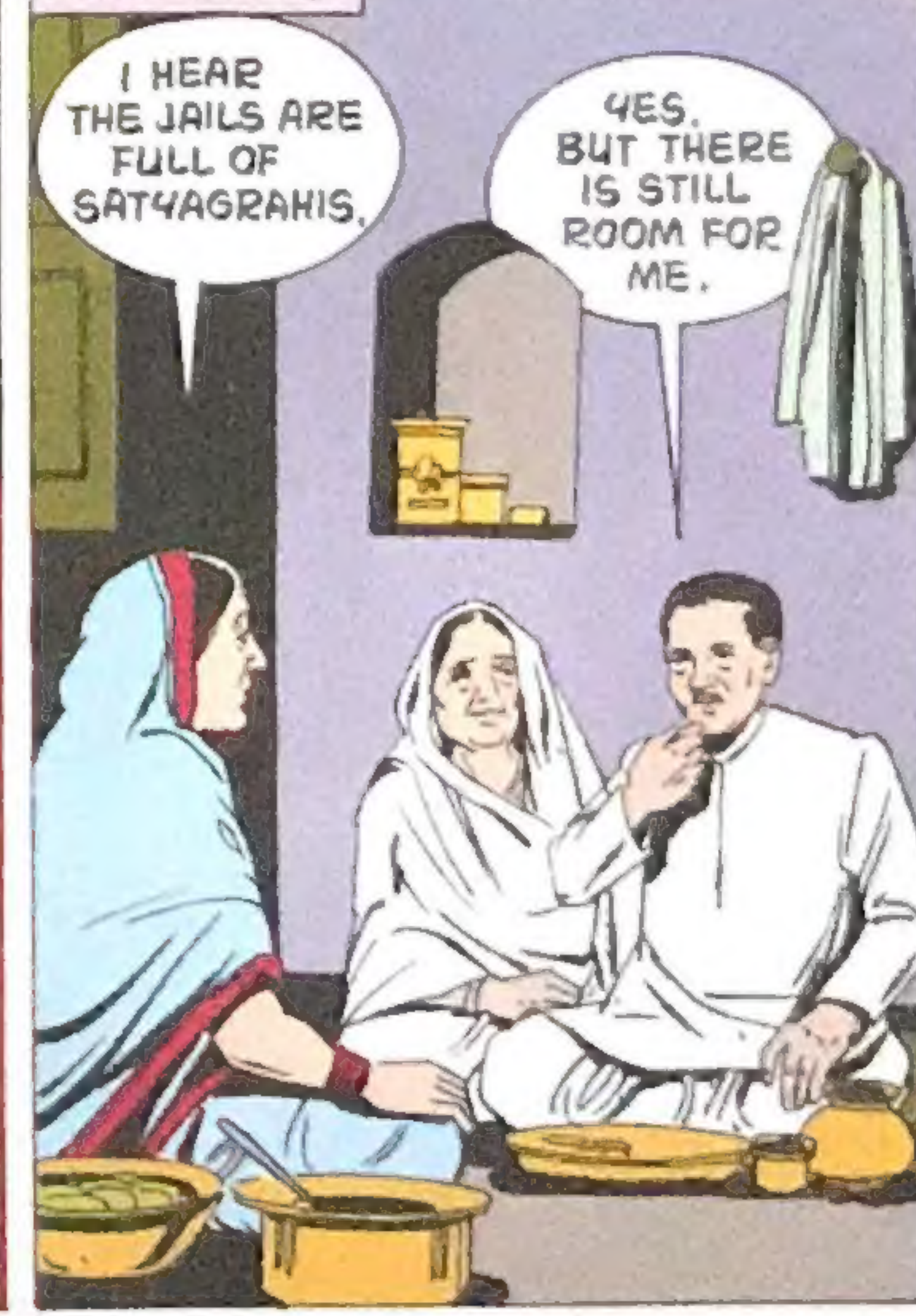
STOP PAYING TAXES. DO NOT CO-OPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. EVEN IF SOME ACTIONS OF THE BRITISH MAKE YOU ANGRY DON'T TURN VIOLENT. REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE MAHATMA...

SEVERAL WORKERS WERE ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO JAIL.



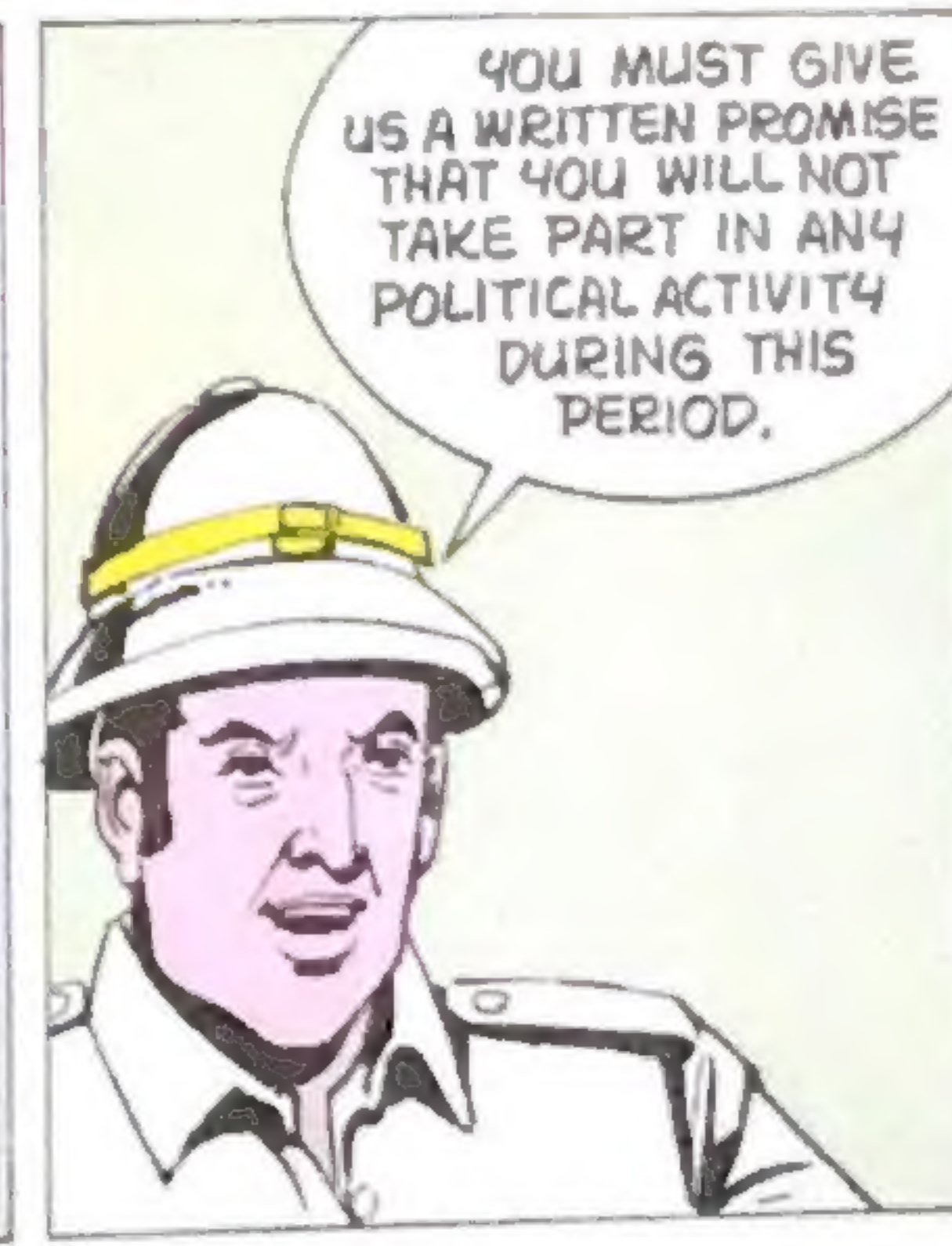
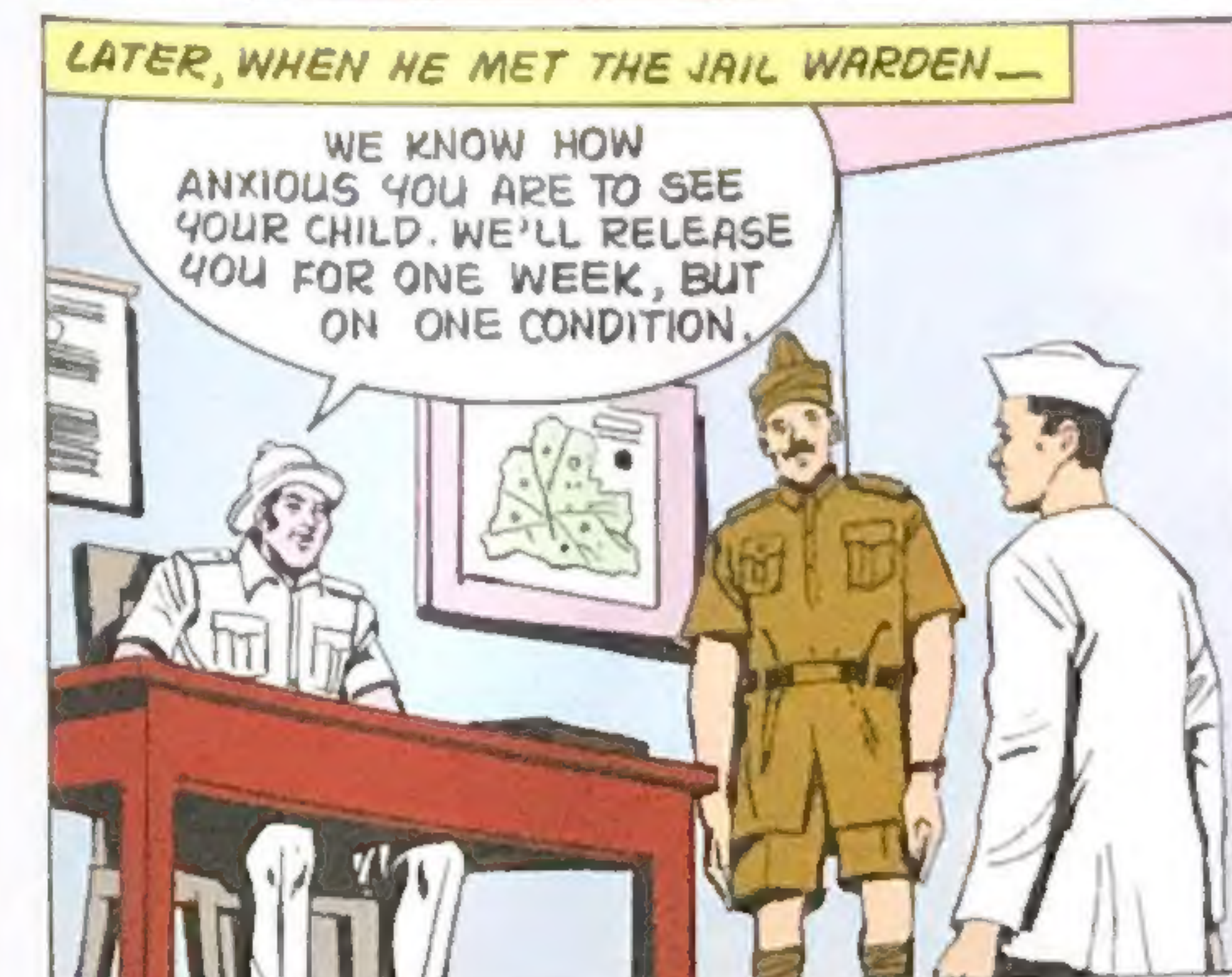
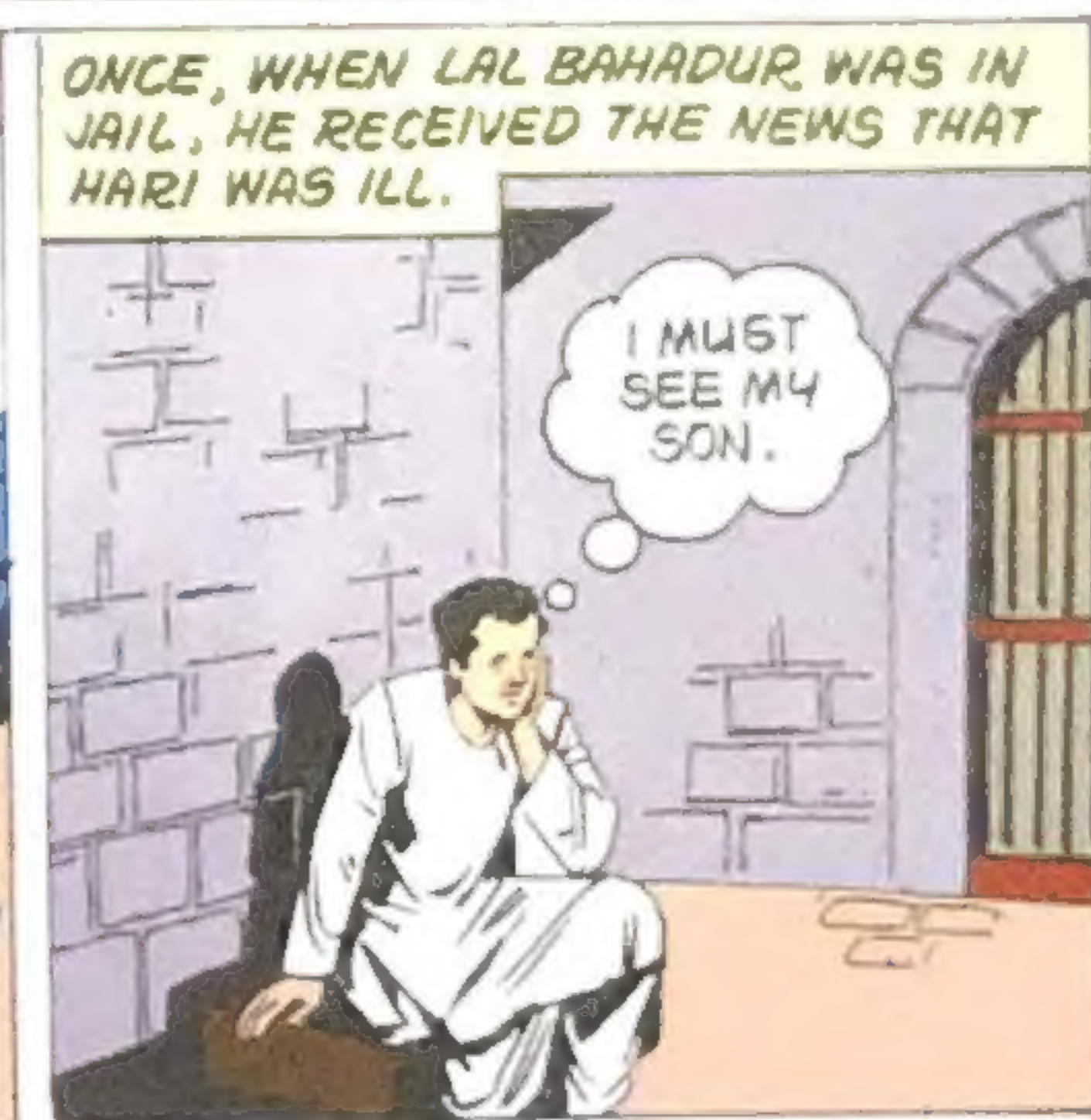
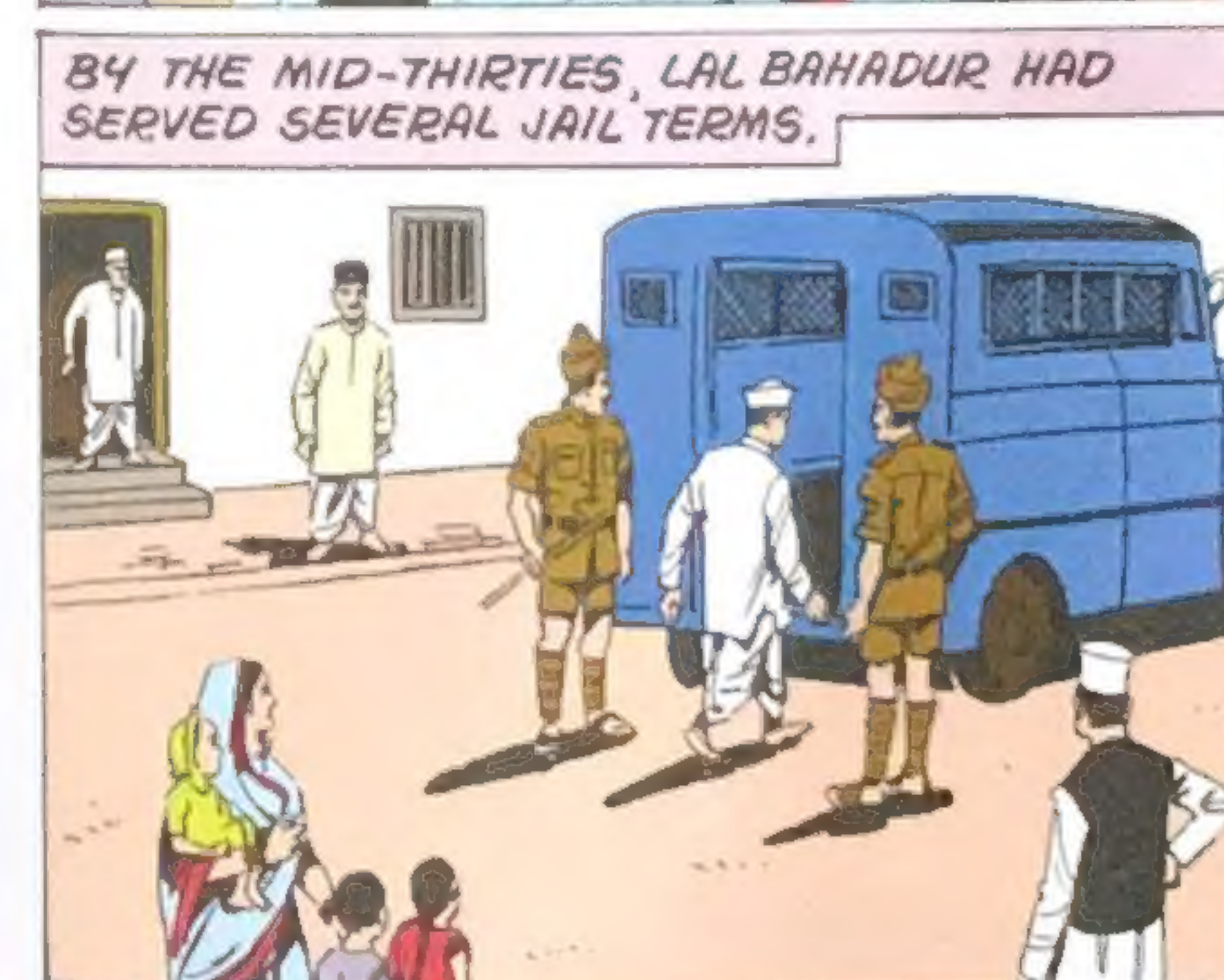
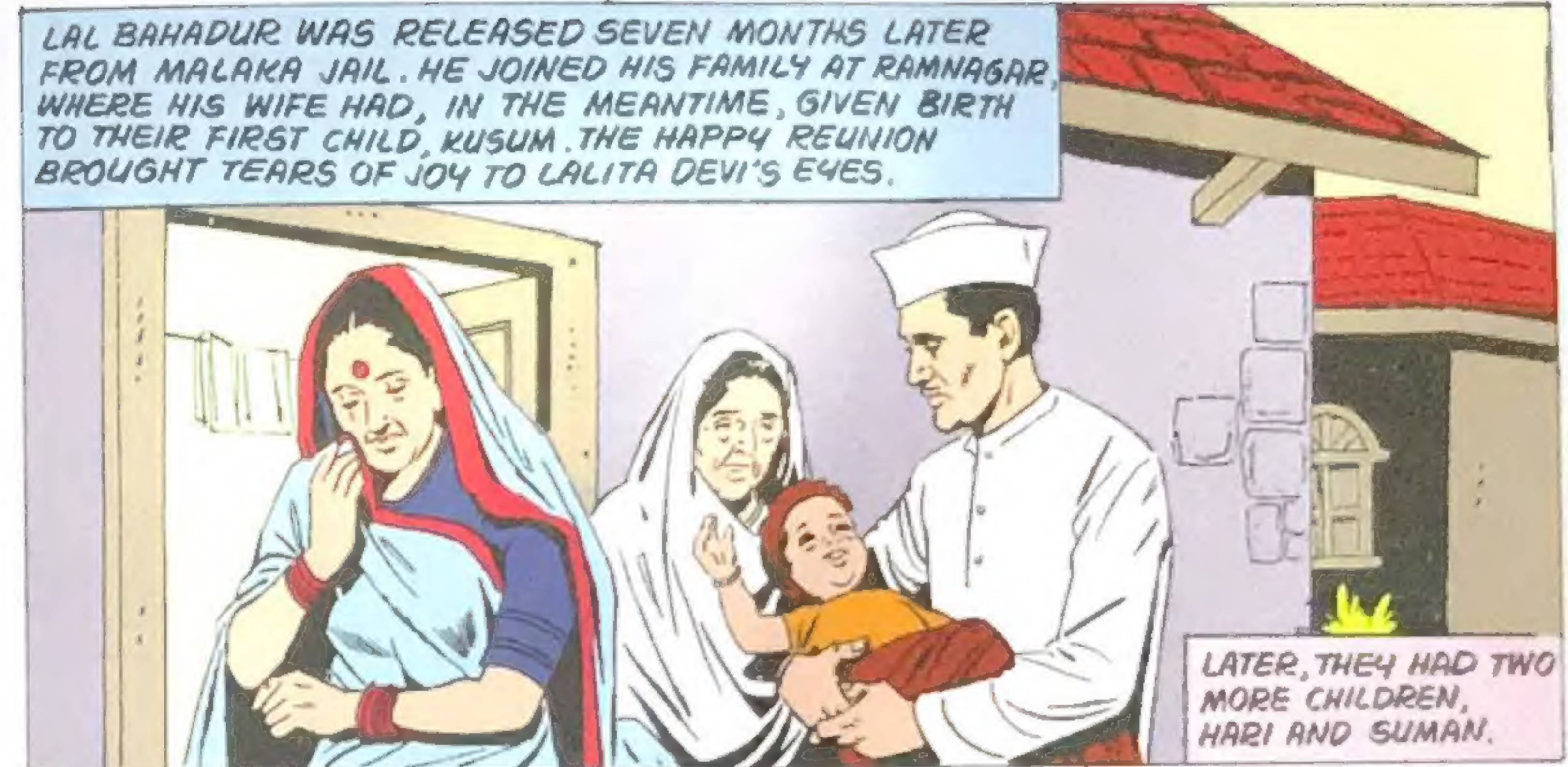
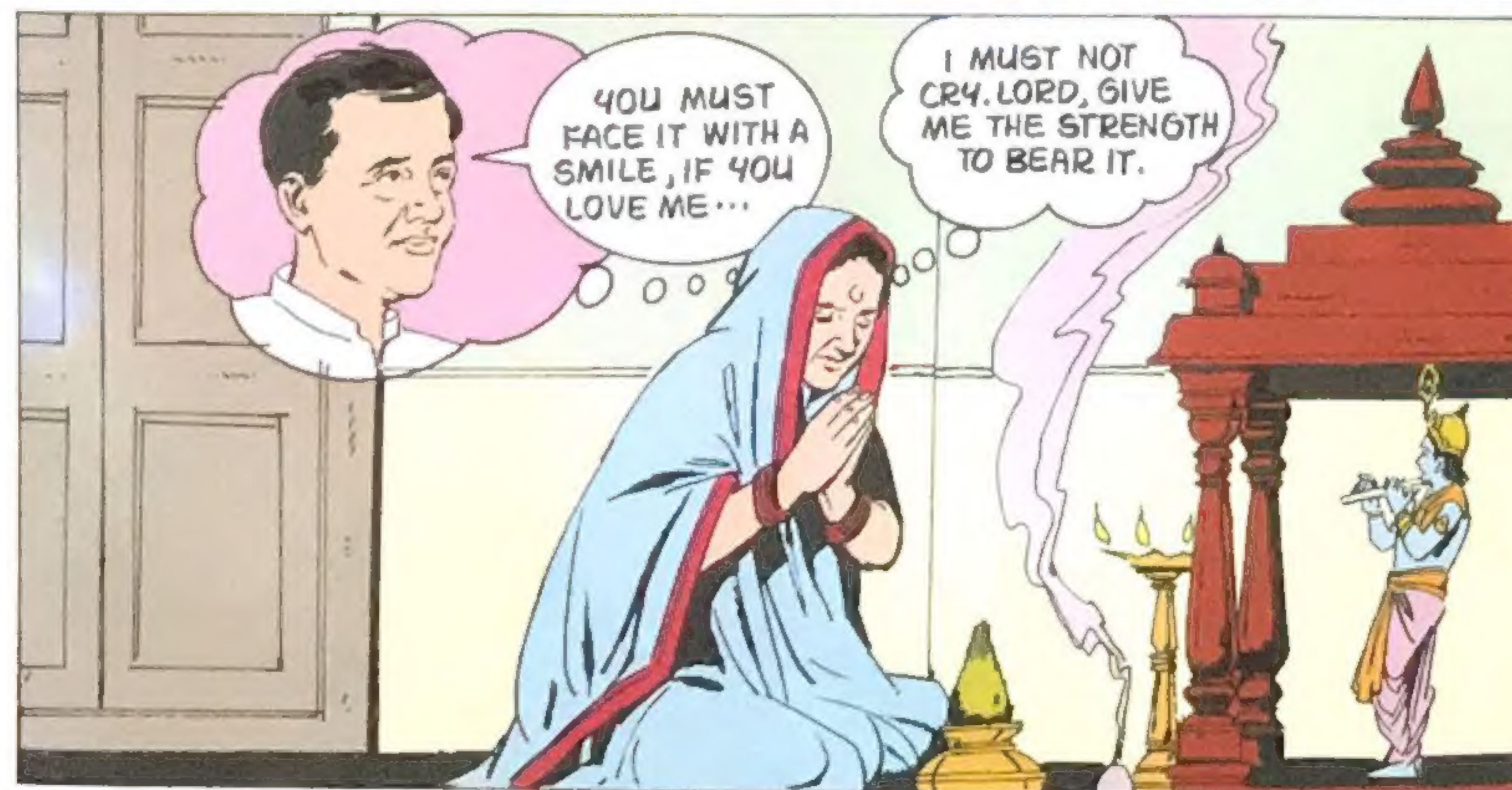
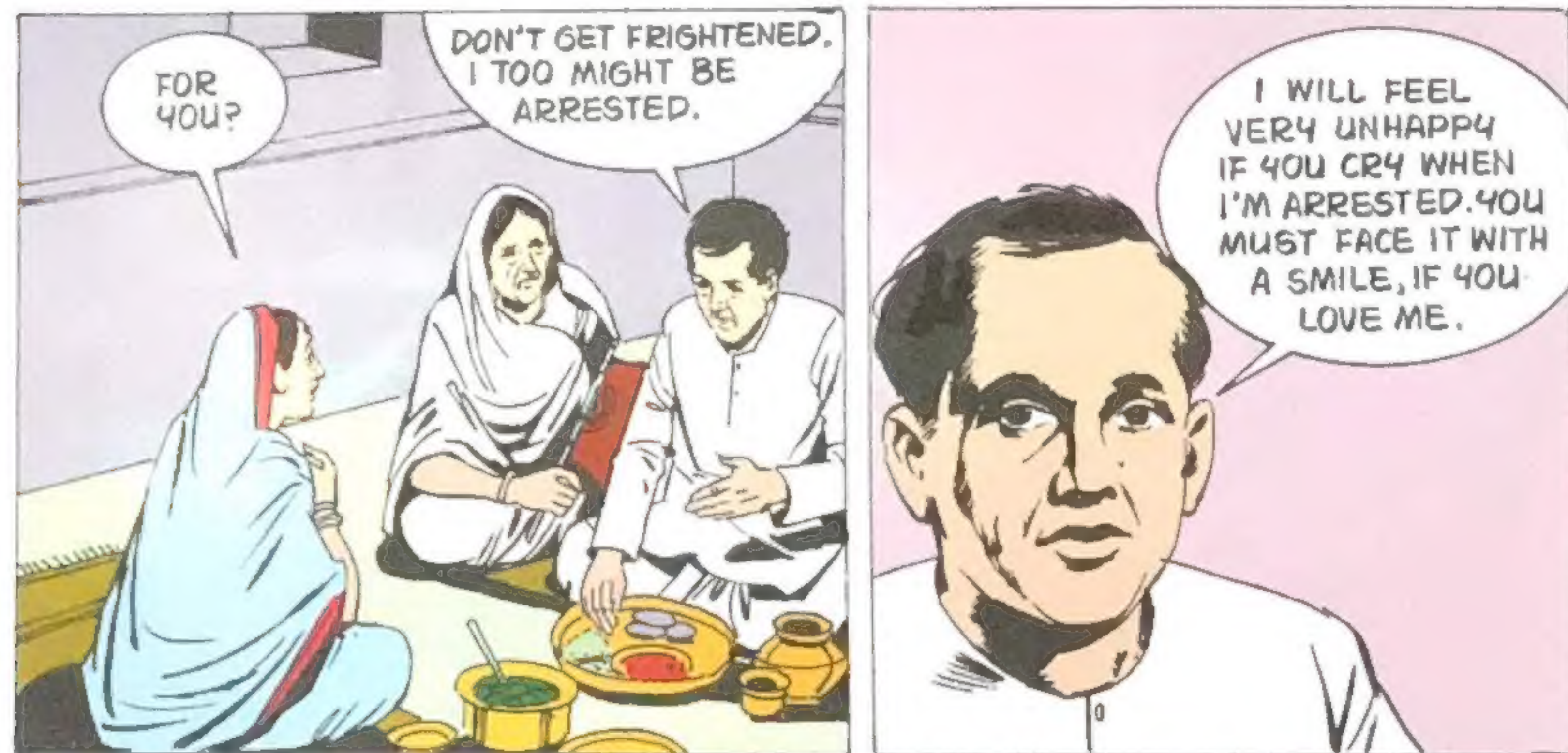
MAHATMA GANDHI KI JAI!

LAL BAHADUR WAS RARELY SEEN AT HOME. HE USED TO COME HOME LATE FOR DINNER.



I HEAR THE JAILS ARE FULL OF SATYAGRAHIS.

YES, BUT THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR ME.





AWARE OF LAL BAHADUR'S UPRIGHT NATURE, THE WARDEN RELEASED HIM WITHOUT A WRITTEN STATEMENT.

HE STAYED AT HOME FOR A WEEK, BUT HARI'S CONDITION BECAME WORSE.



AT THE END OF THE WEEK—

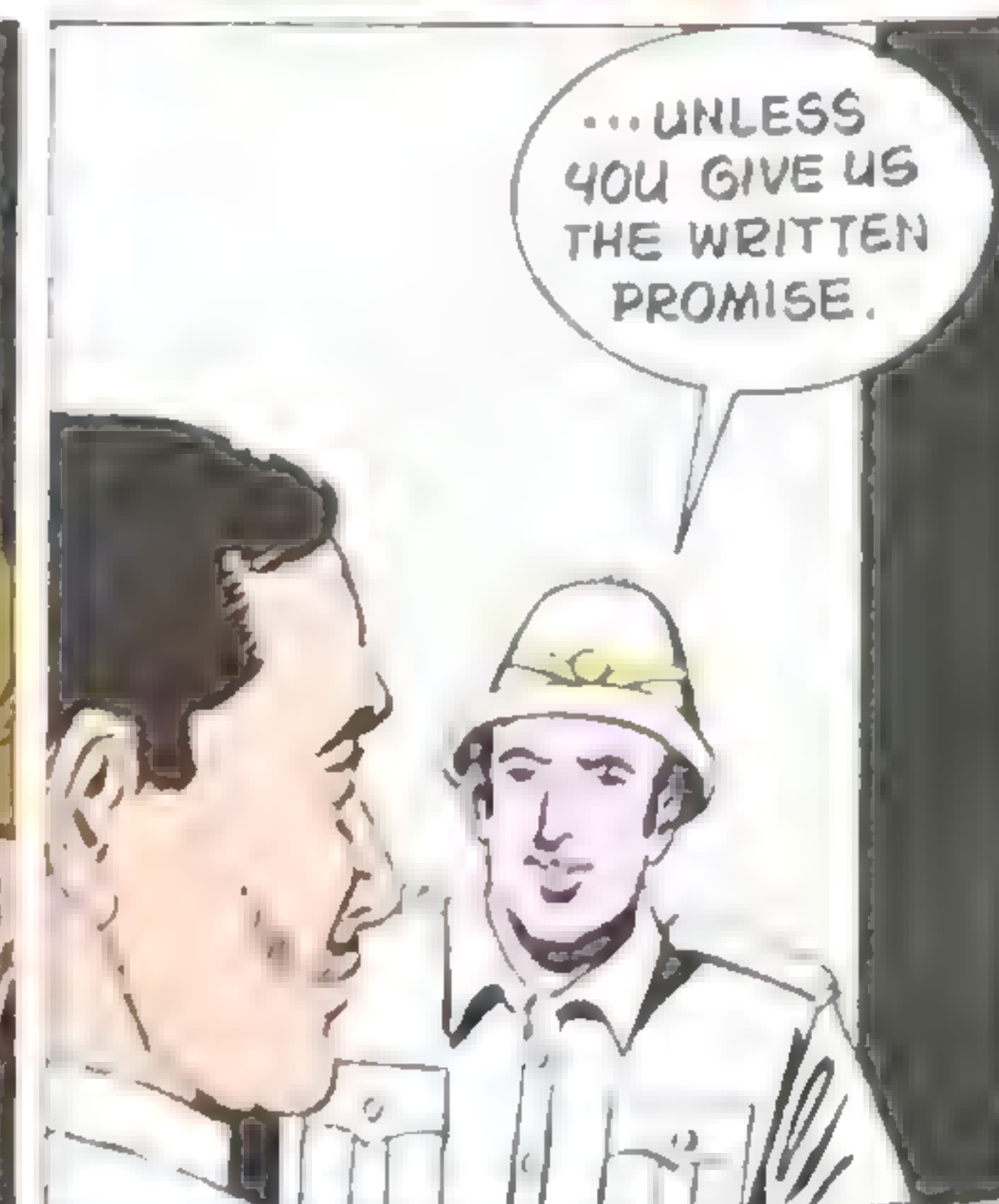


MR. SHASTRI, WE'VE COME TO TAKE YOU BACK TO JAIL.

I'M SORRY, WE CANNOT EXTEND THE PERMISSION, UNLESS...



...UNLESS YOU GIVE US THE WRITTEN PROMISE.



BUT LAL BAHADUR WAS NOT PREPARED TO GIVE SUCH A PROMISE. HE GOT UP.



LET'S GO.



BAPUJI! DON'T GO!

LAL BAHADUR LOOKED AT HIS SON...



...CARESSED THE CHILD...

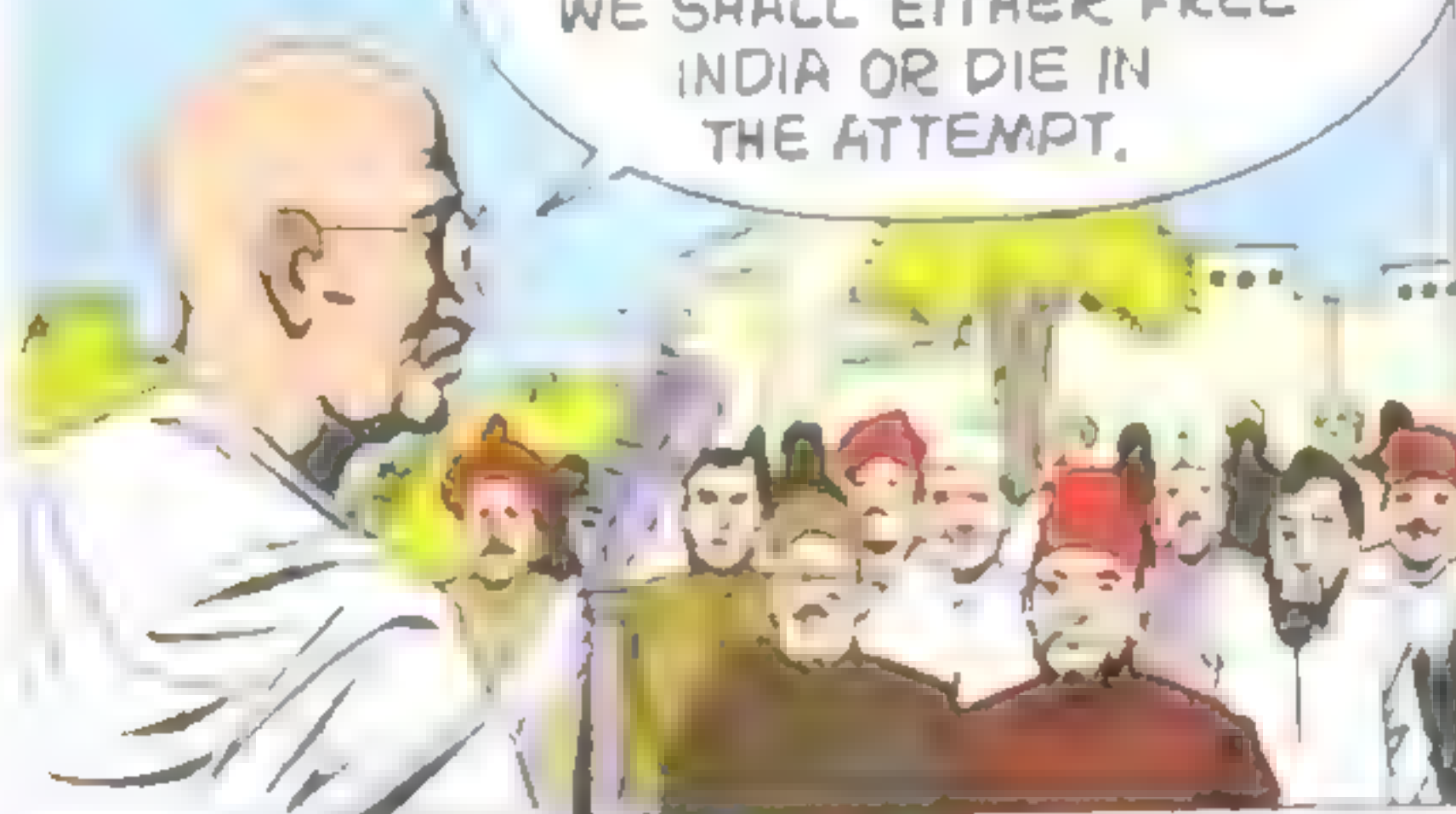


...AND WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE.

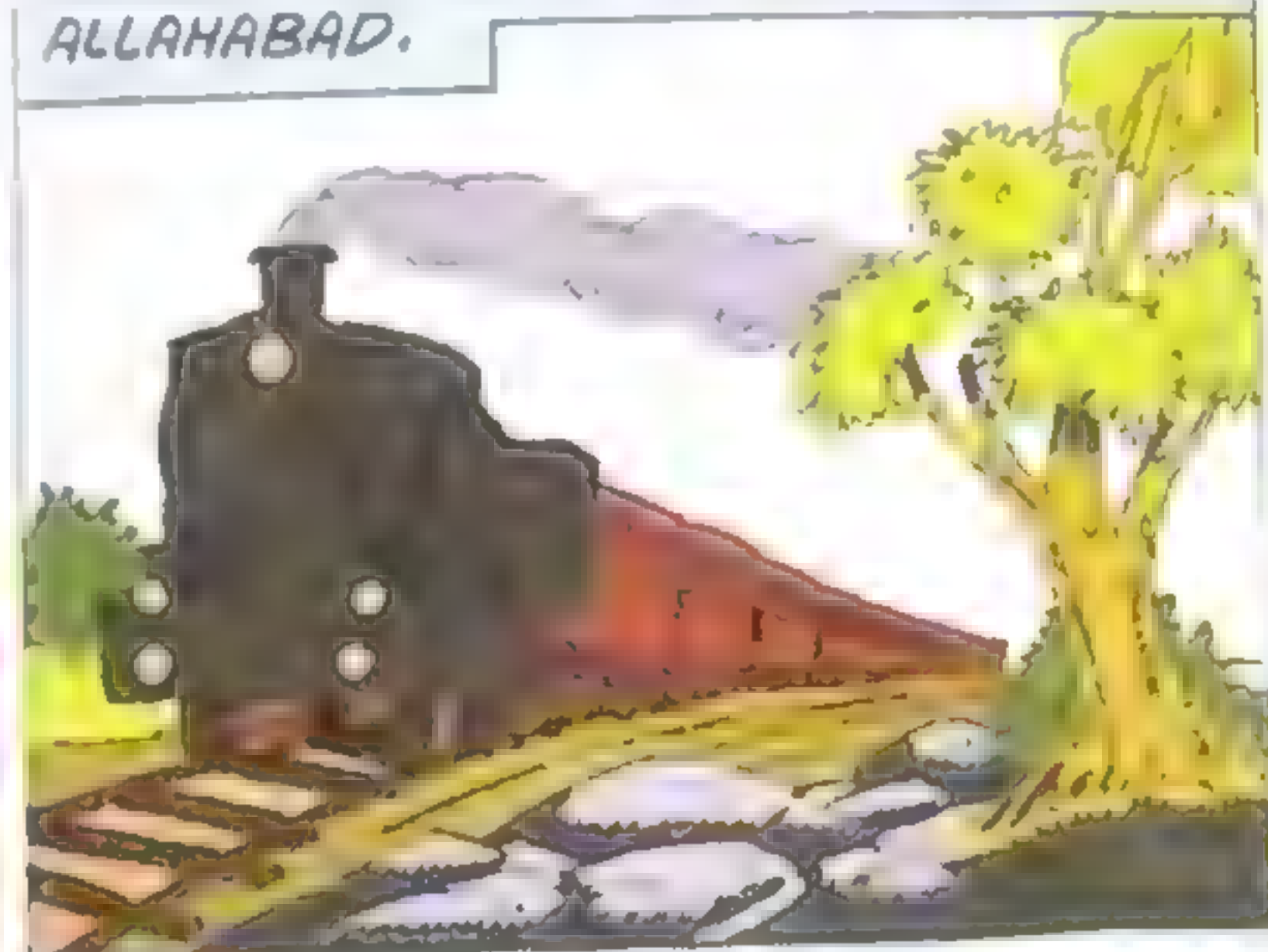


AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM JAIL, LAL BAHADUR RESUMED HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. IN 1942, HE ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE IN BOMBAY. THE CONGRESS ASKED THE BRITISHERS TO QUIT INDIA.

I AM NOT GOING TO BE SATISFIED WITH ANYTHING SHORT OF COMPLETE FREEDOM. WE SHALL EITHER FREE INDIA OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT.



THE GOVERNMENT RESPONDED TO THE QUIT INDIA RESOLUTION BY BANNING THE CONGRESS PARTY. LEADERS LIKE GANDHI AND NEHRU WERE THROWN INTO PRISON. LAL BAHADUR AND HIS ASSOCIATES LEFT BOMBAY FOR ALLAHABAD.



NEAR ALLAHABAD —

THE POLICE MUST BE WAITING AT THE STATION. THIS WAY, WE'LL REACH THE CITY SAFELY.



ALONG WITH OTHER WORKERS, LAL BAHADUR TOURED THE VILLAGES IN DISGUISE TO SPREAD MAHATMA GANDHI'S MESSAGE.

YOU MUST KEEP UP THE STRUGGLE

BUT WE HAVE NO ONE TO GUIDE US. ALL THE LEADERS ARE IN JAIL.



YOU ARE YOUR OWN LEADER. GANDHIJI SAYS EVERY INDIAN WHO WANTS FREEDOM MUST BE HIS OWN GUIDE. EVERY ONE HAS TO MAKE AN EFFORT IN ORDER TO BE INDEPENDENT.



A FEW DAYS LATER, LAL BAHADUR WAS ABOUT TO ADDRESS A MEETING AT THE CLOCK TOWER, ALLAHABAD...



...WHEN THE POLICE ARRESTED HIM.



LAL BAHADUR WAS TAKEN TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION. LALITA DEVI WENT TO MIRZAPUR, WHERE SHE FELL ILL. THOSE WERE HARD DAYS FOR THE FAMILY

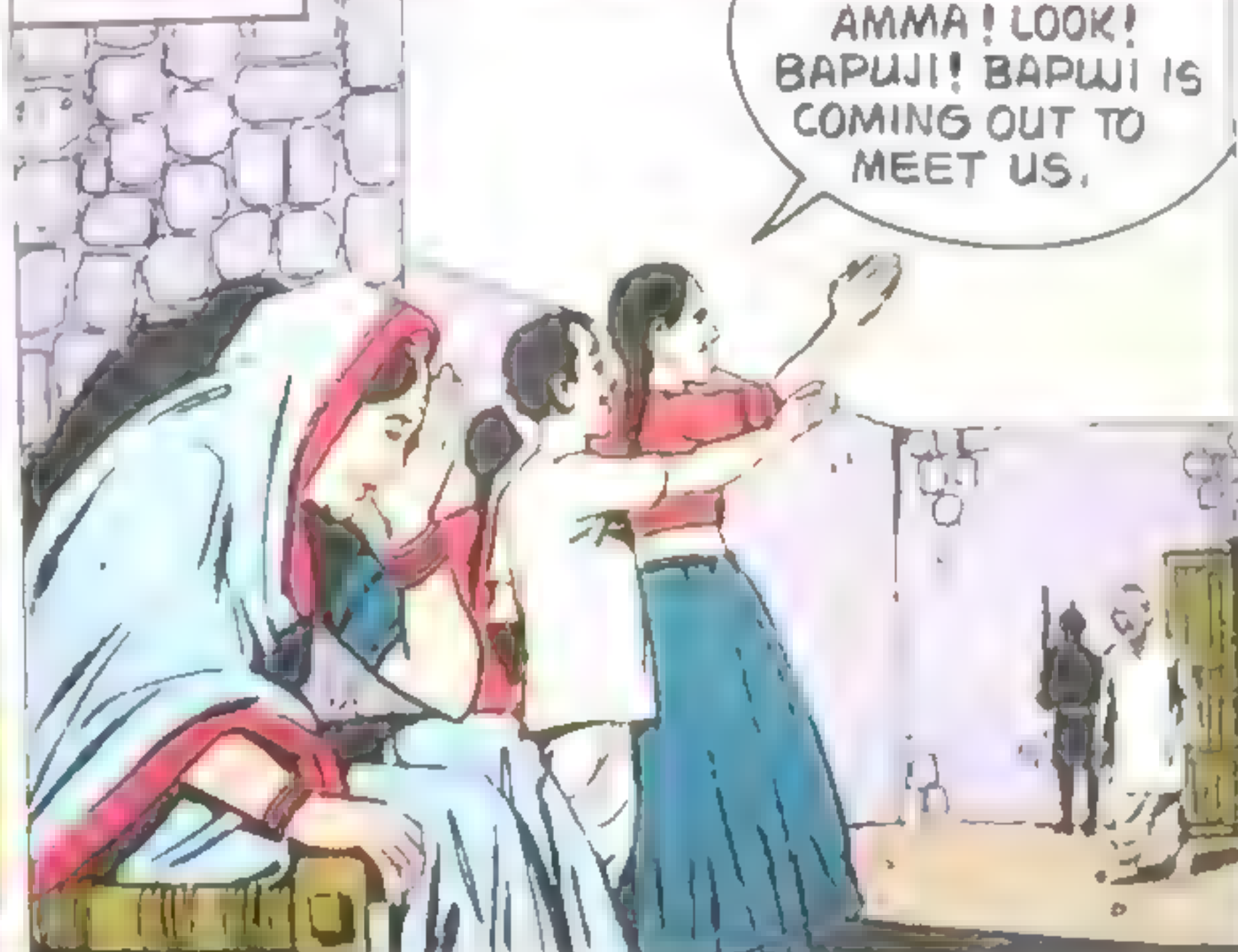
I DON'T MIND POVERTY. I CAN PUT UP WITH HUNGER. IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN TAKEN...



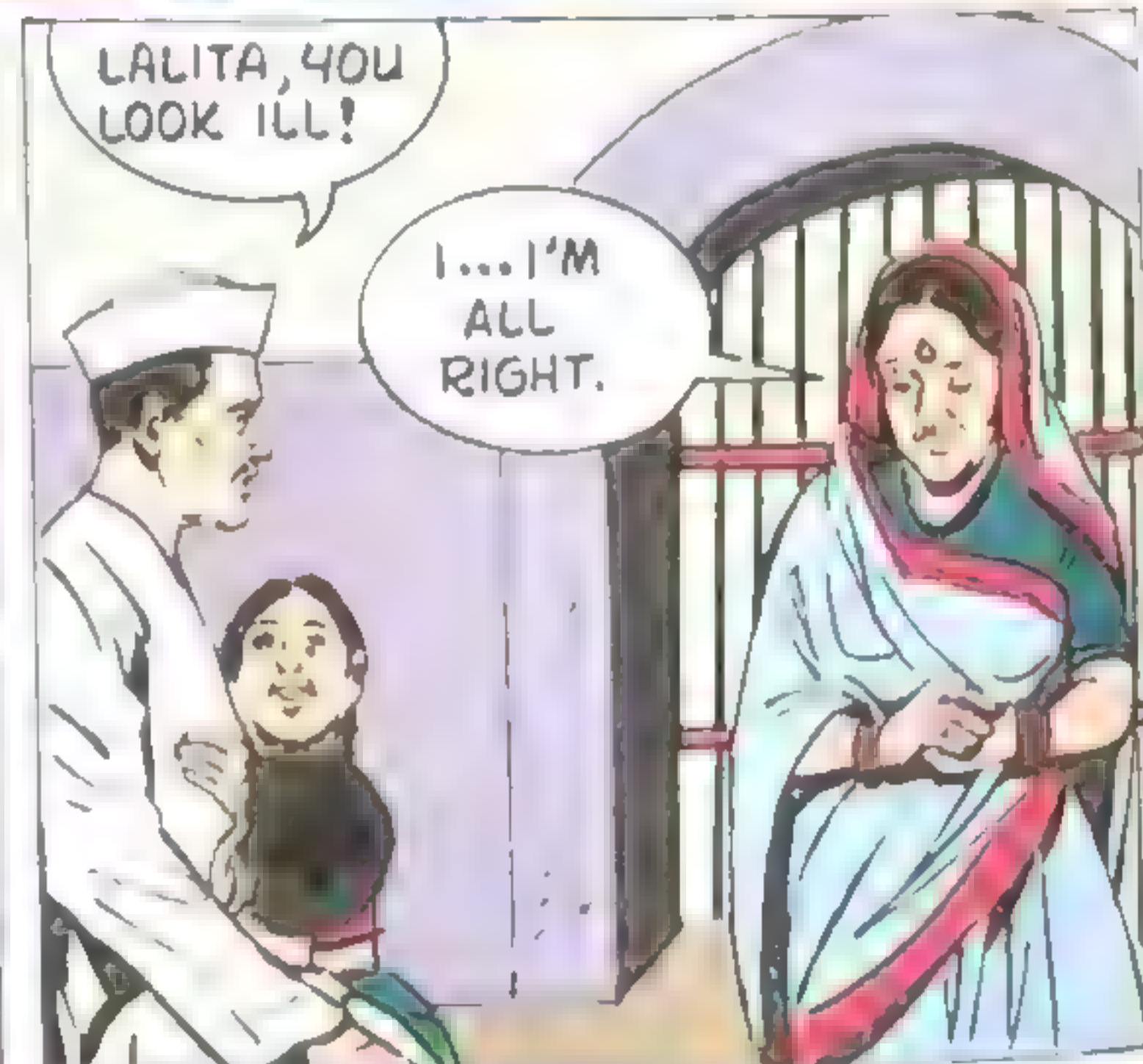
SEVEN MONTHS LATER SHE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HER HUSBAND. HE WAS IN NAINI JAIL.



BUT SHE HAD TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO GET PERMISSION TO MEET HER HUSBAND.



AMMA! LOOK! BAPUJI! BAPUJI IS COMING OUT TO MEET US.



LALITA DEVI WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT HER HUSBAND ONCE A WEEK, BUT—



* A DISH OF WHEAT FLOUR.

SHE BEGAN TO CUT DOWN EXPENSES.



THE NEXT DAY—



* SISTER

A FEW DAYS LATER—



DON'T WORRY, ITS ALL PAID FOR... BY YOUR NEIGHBOUR.

BUT I DIDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING! WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ALL THESE PROVISIONS HERE? I DON'T HAVE MONEY TO PAY FOR ALL THIS!

LALITA DEVI IMMEDIATELY WENT TO THE KIND NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE.



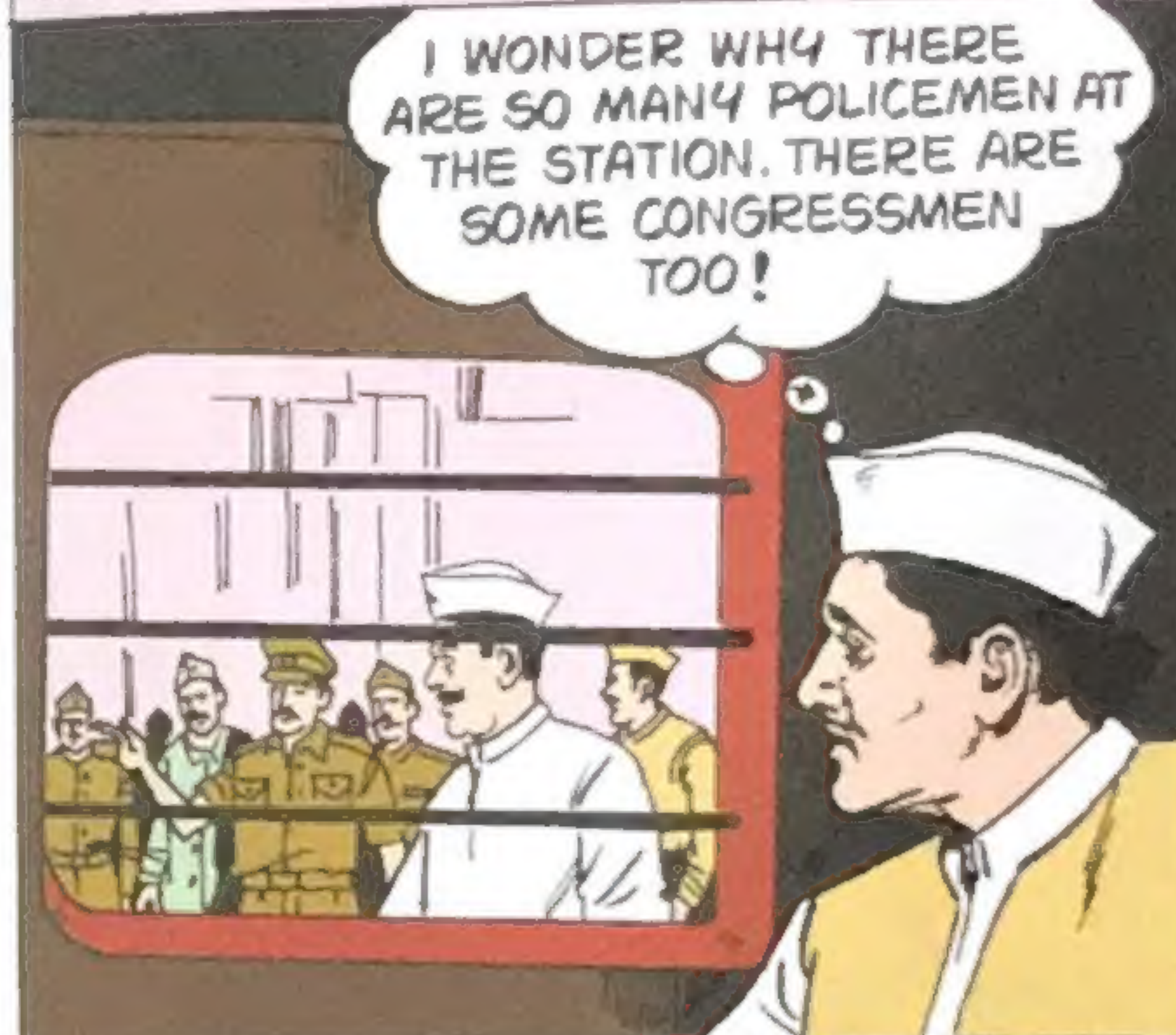
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, BEHAN. YOU MUST HAVE SPENT A LOT ON IT.

NO, NO, LALITA, THIS IS NOTHING. LAL BAHADUR IS DOING SO MUCH FOR OUR COUNTRY. IT'S OUR DUTY TO HELP YOU WHENEVER THE NEED ARISES.

LAL BAHADUR WAS RELEASED IN 1946. IN 1947 THE DREAM OF INDIA CAME TRUE. SHE BECAME FREE.



LAL BAHADUR WAS MADE MINISTER FOR THE POLICE IN U.P. IN ORDER TO FULFIL HIS DUTIES. HE OFTEN HAD TO VISIT VARIOUS CITIES. ONCE WHEN HE WENT TO AGRA—

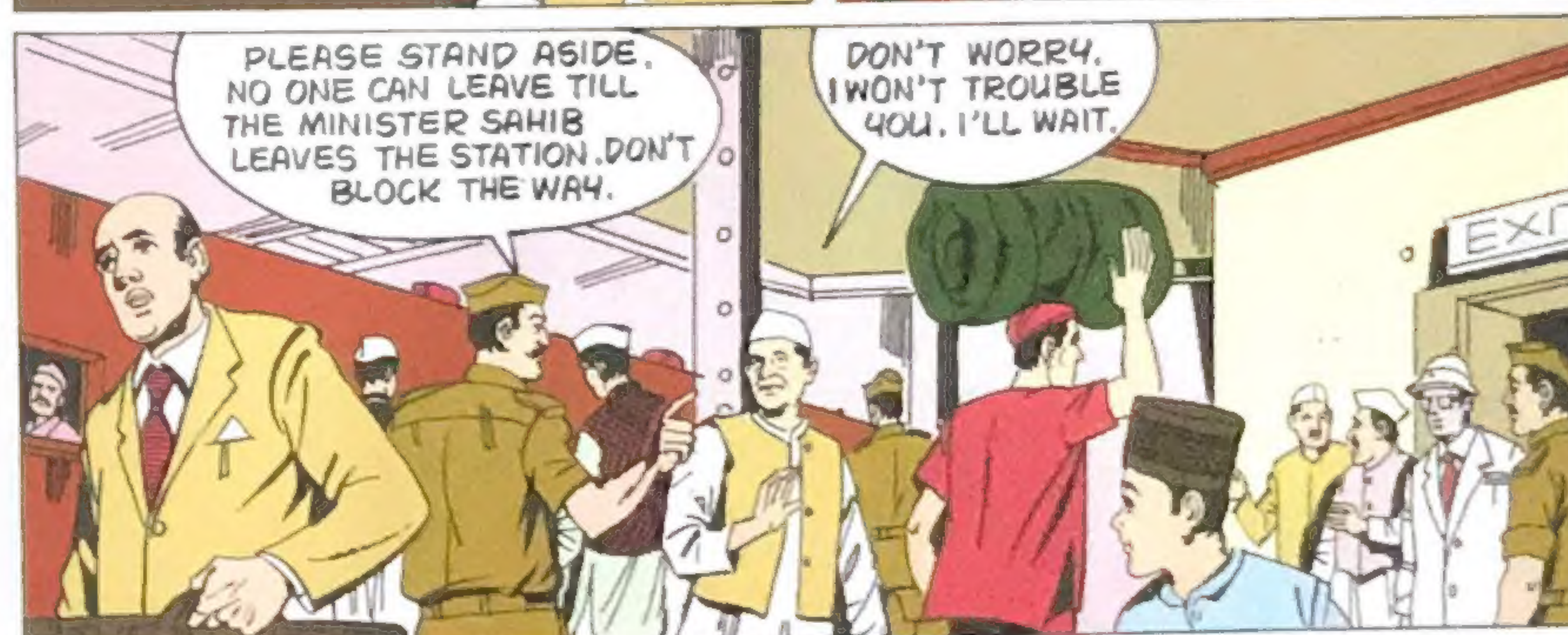


I WONDER WHY THERE ARE SO MANY POLICEMEN AT THE STATION. THERE ARE SOME CONGRESSMEN TOO!

WHEN HE GOT DOWN—

TELL ME BHAIIYA, WHAT IS ALL THIS ABOUT? IS SOME DIGNITARY COMING HERE TODAY?

DON'T YOU KNOW? THE POLICE MINISTER SAHIB IS COMING. BY THIS VERY TRAIN. EVERYONE HAS GATHERED TO RECEIVE HIM.



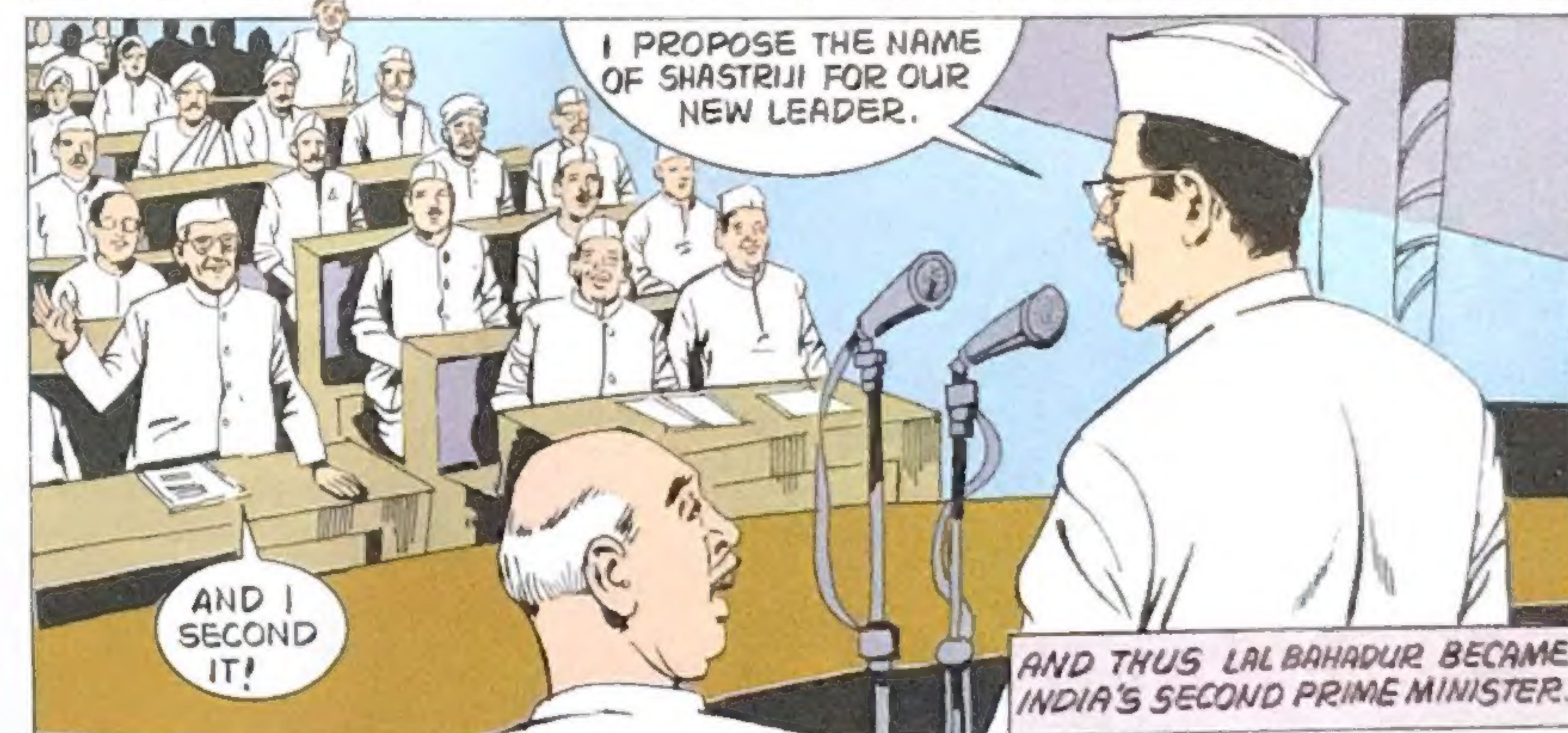
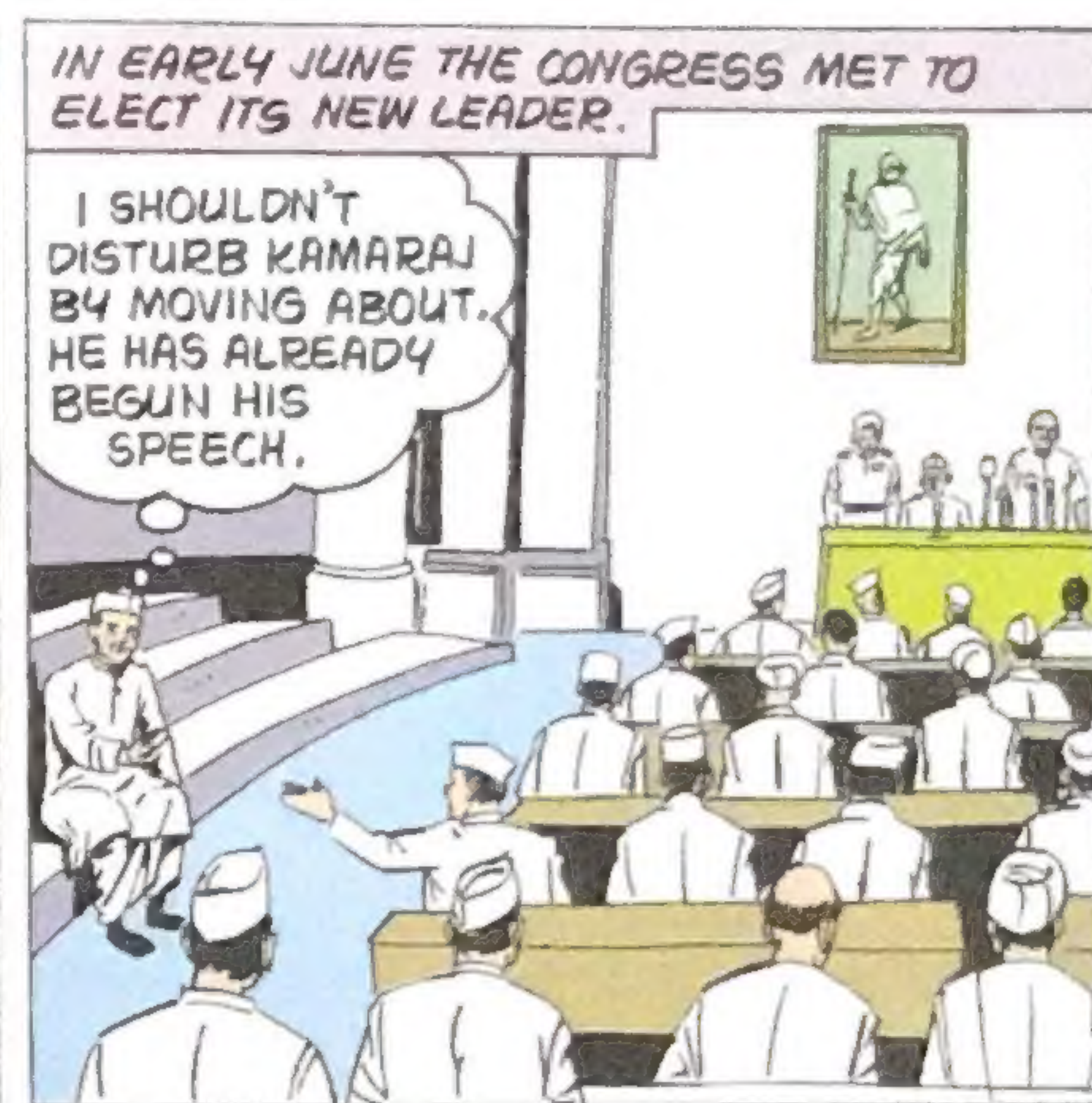
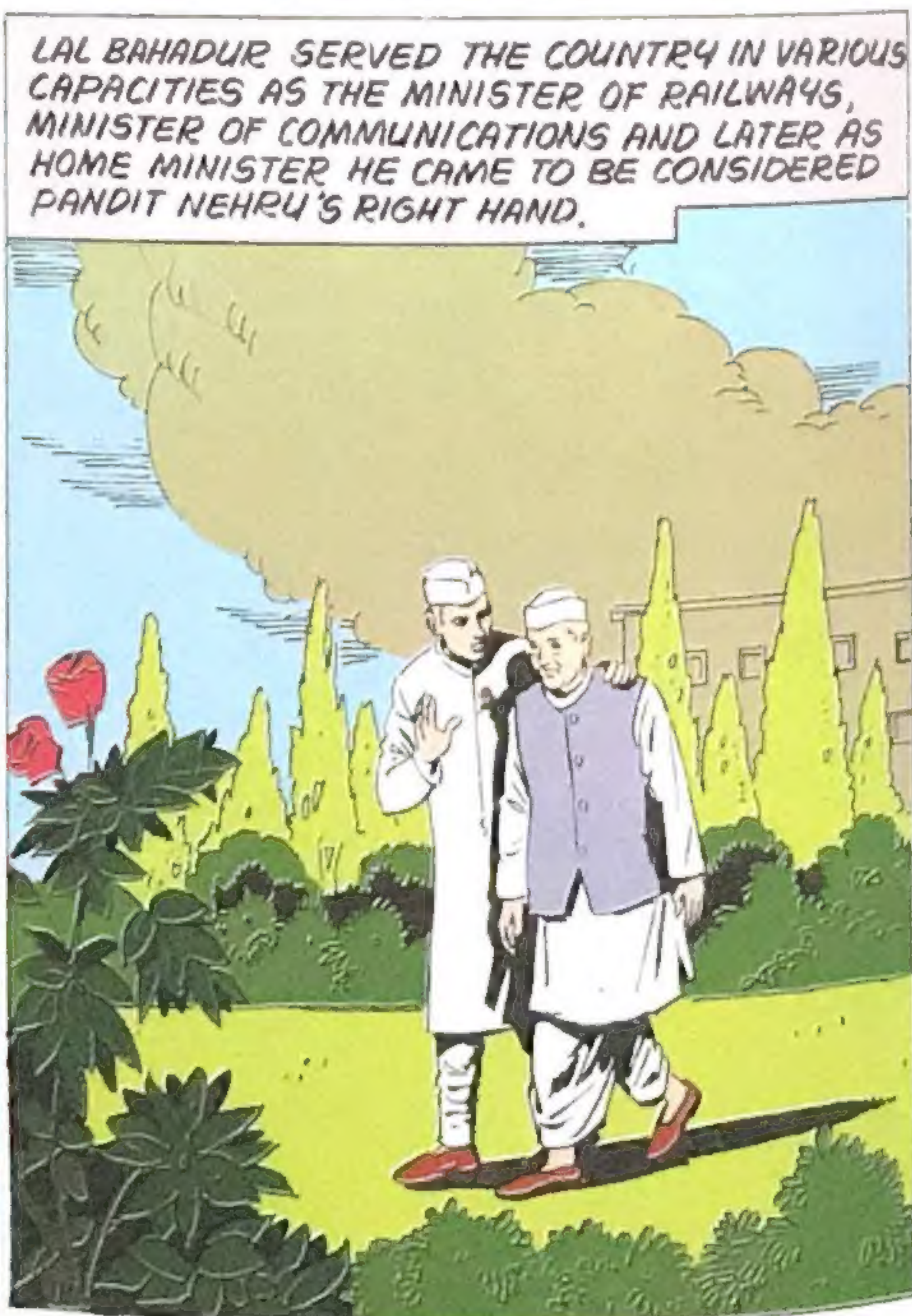
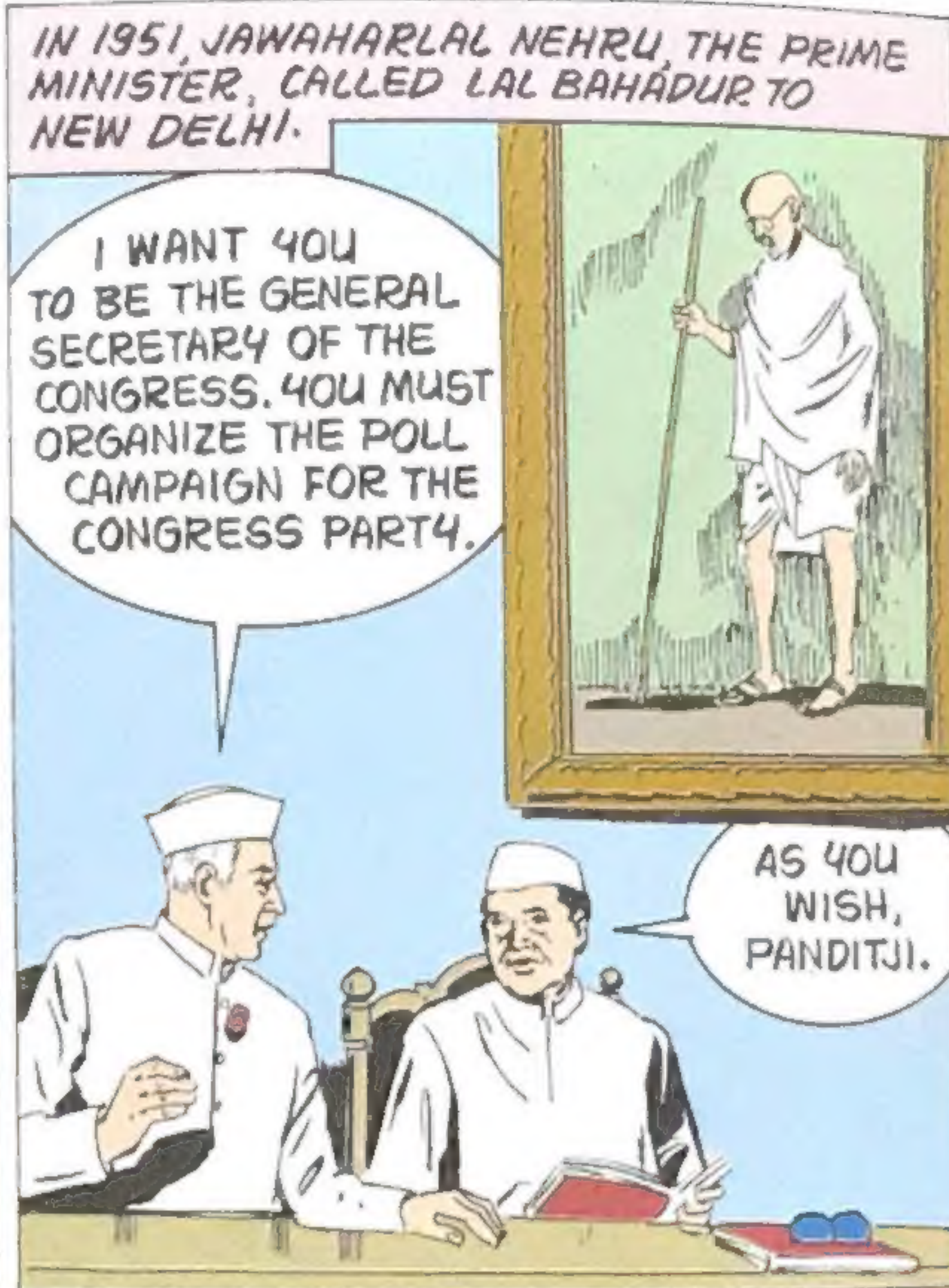
PLEASE STAND ASIDE. NO ONE CAN LEAVE TILL THE MINISTER SAHIB LEAVES THE STATION. DON'T BLOCK THE WAY.

DON'T WORRY. I WON'T TROUBLE YOU. I'LL WAIT.



THAT MAN YOU WERE TALKING TO IS THE POLICE MINISTER.

COME ON! I'D BE A FOOL TO BELIEVE YOU. A MINISTER WOULD HAVE HALF A DOZEN MEN AROUND HIM. HE WOULDN'T BE ALONE. NOW, NOW, THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKING.



IN 1965, PAKISTAN ATTACKED INDIA ON THE KASHMIR FRONT.

...WE WILL MEET FORCE WITH FORCE. NAKED AGGRESSION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED... JAI JAWAN! JAI KISAN!



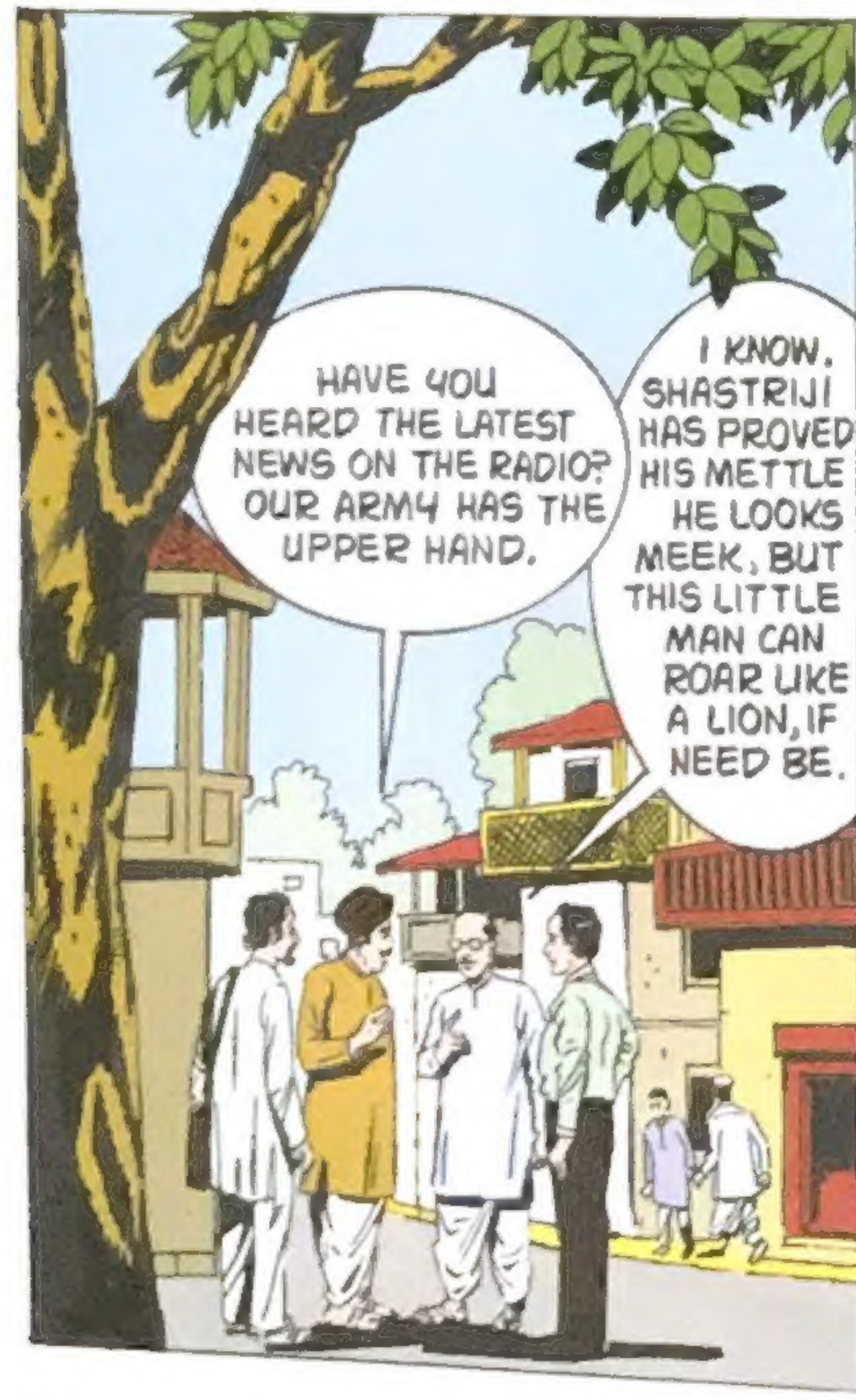
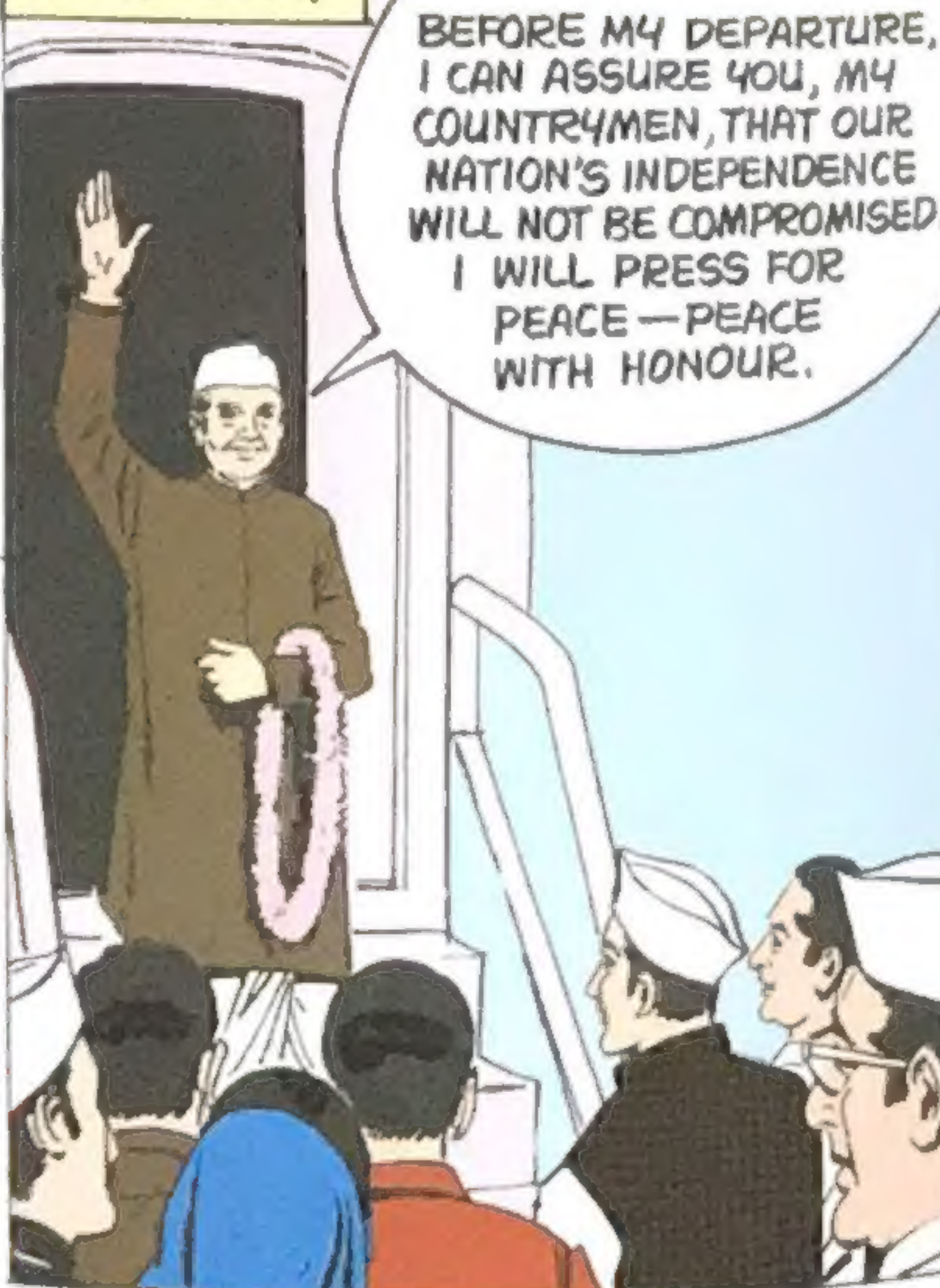
THE INDIAN ARMY SOON PLUNGED INTO THE BATTLE.

BHARAT MATA KI JAI!



IN JANUARY 1966 A CEASE-FIRE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT AS A RESULT OF INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE. LAL BAHADUR LEFT FOR TASHKENT IN RUSSIA TO HOLD TALKS WITH AYUB KHAN, THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN.

BEFORE MY DEPARTURE, I CAN ASSURE YOU, MY COUNTRYMEN, THAT OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE WILL NOT BE COMPROMISED. I WILL PRESS FOR PEACE — PEACE WITH HONOUR.



HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST NEWS ON THE RADIO? OUR ARMY HAS THE UPPER HAND.

I KNOW, SHASTRIJI HAS PROVED HIS METTLE HE LOOKS MEEK, BUT THIS LITTLE MAN CAN ROAR LIKE A LION, IF NEED BE.

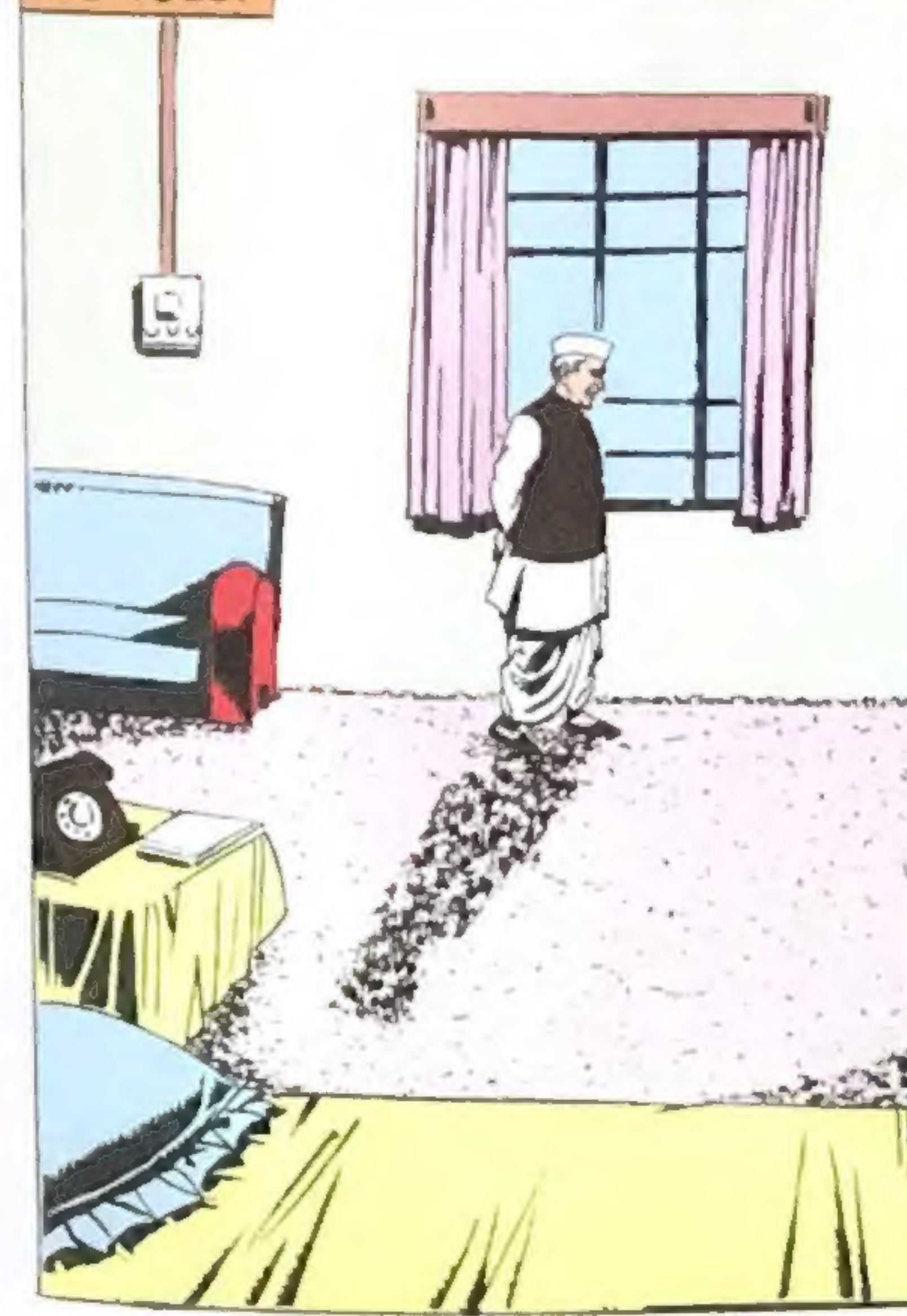
DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH THE HELP OF THE SOVIET PREMIER, KOSYGIN...



...AND SOON AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY BOTH PARTIES.



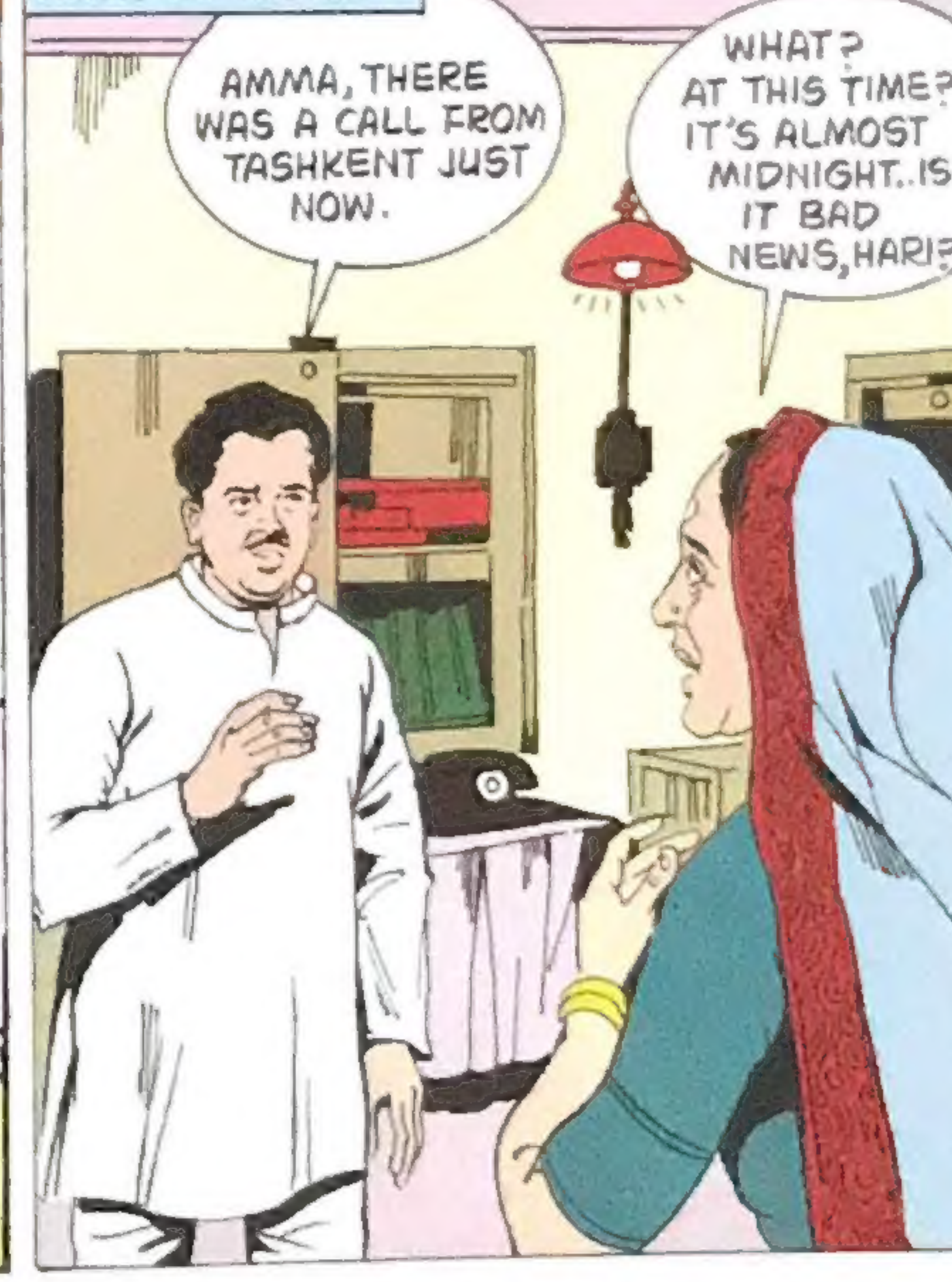
BUT THE TENSION AND STRAIN TOOK ITS TOLL.

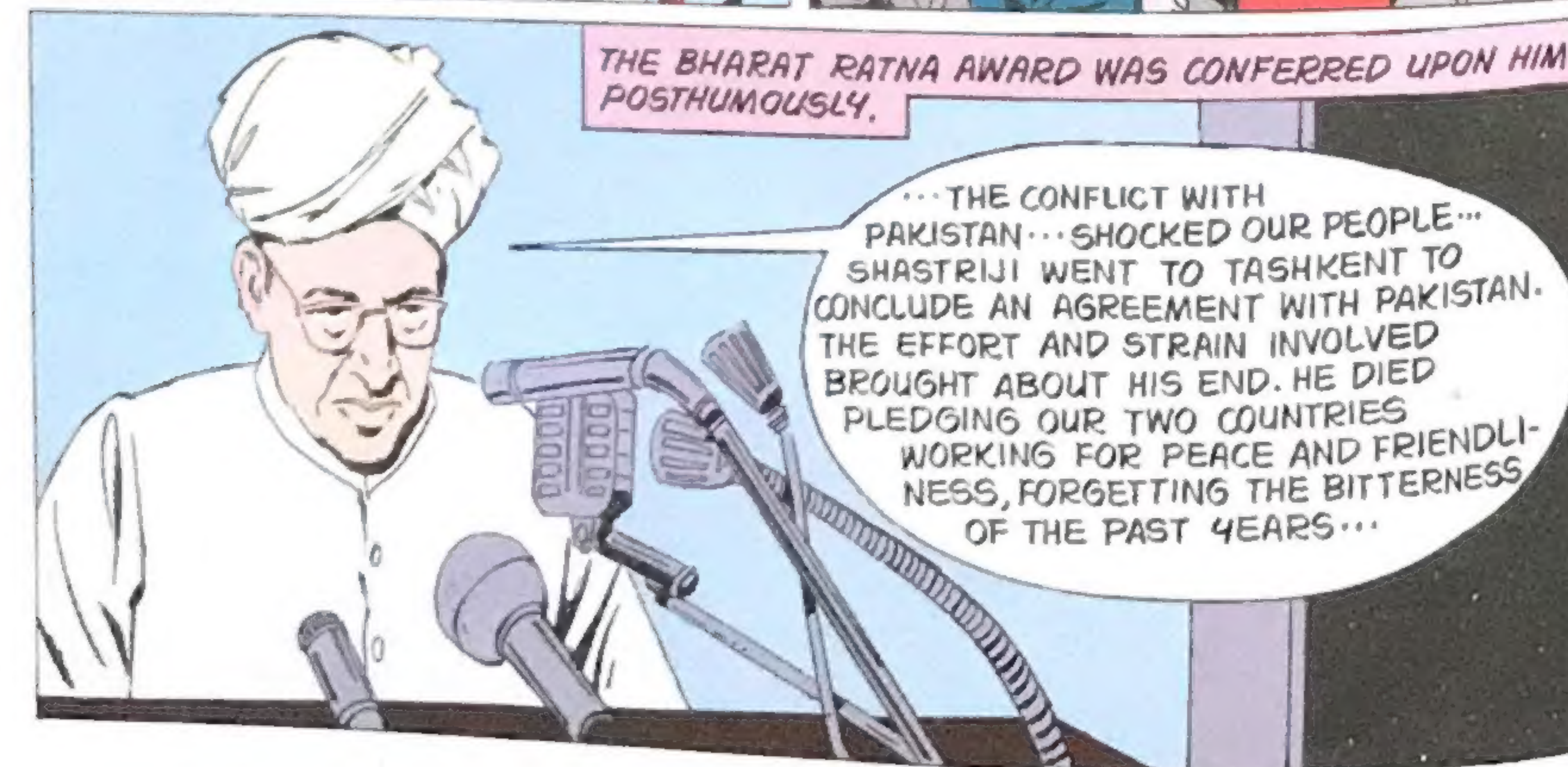
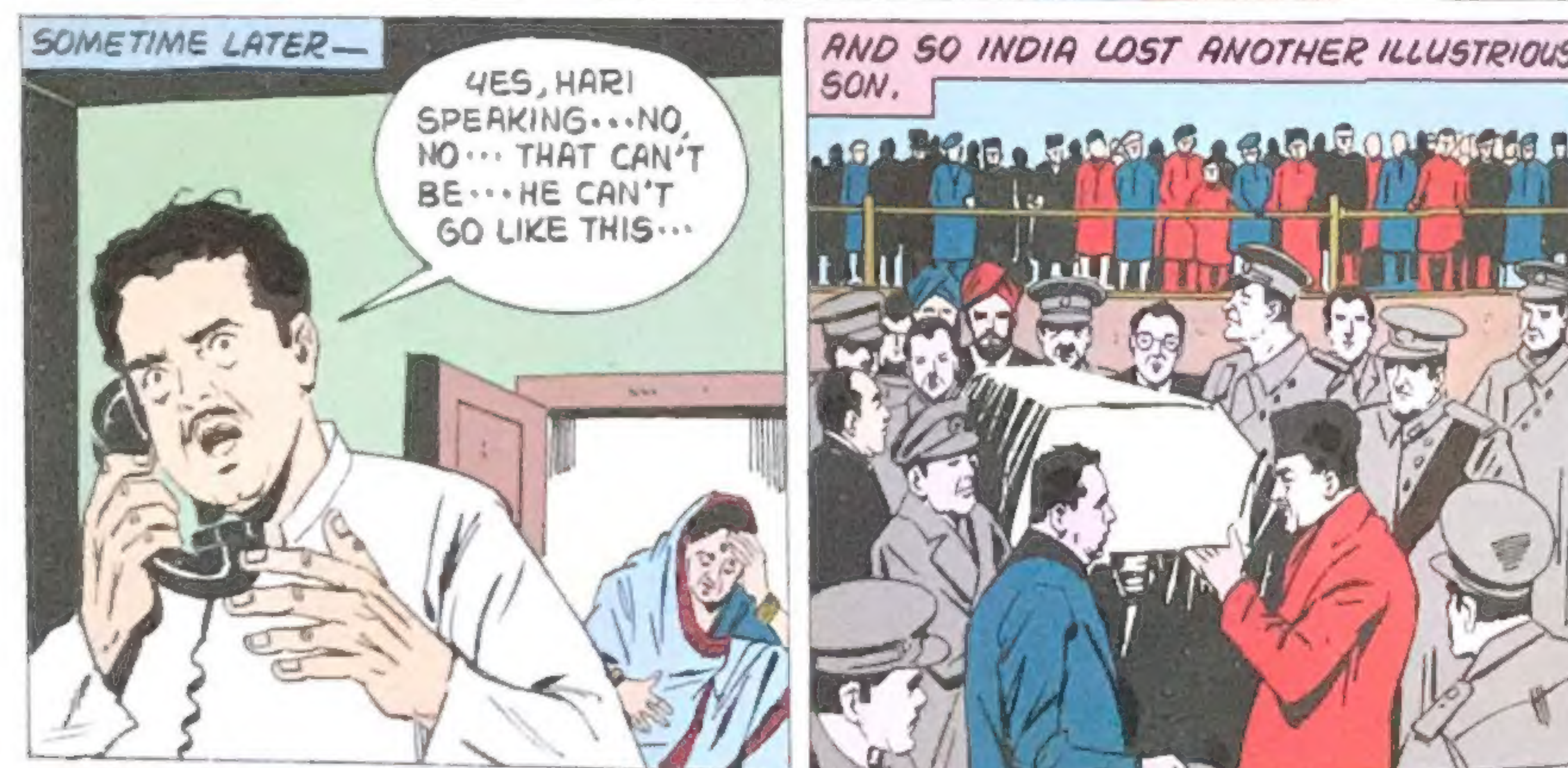
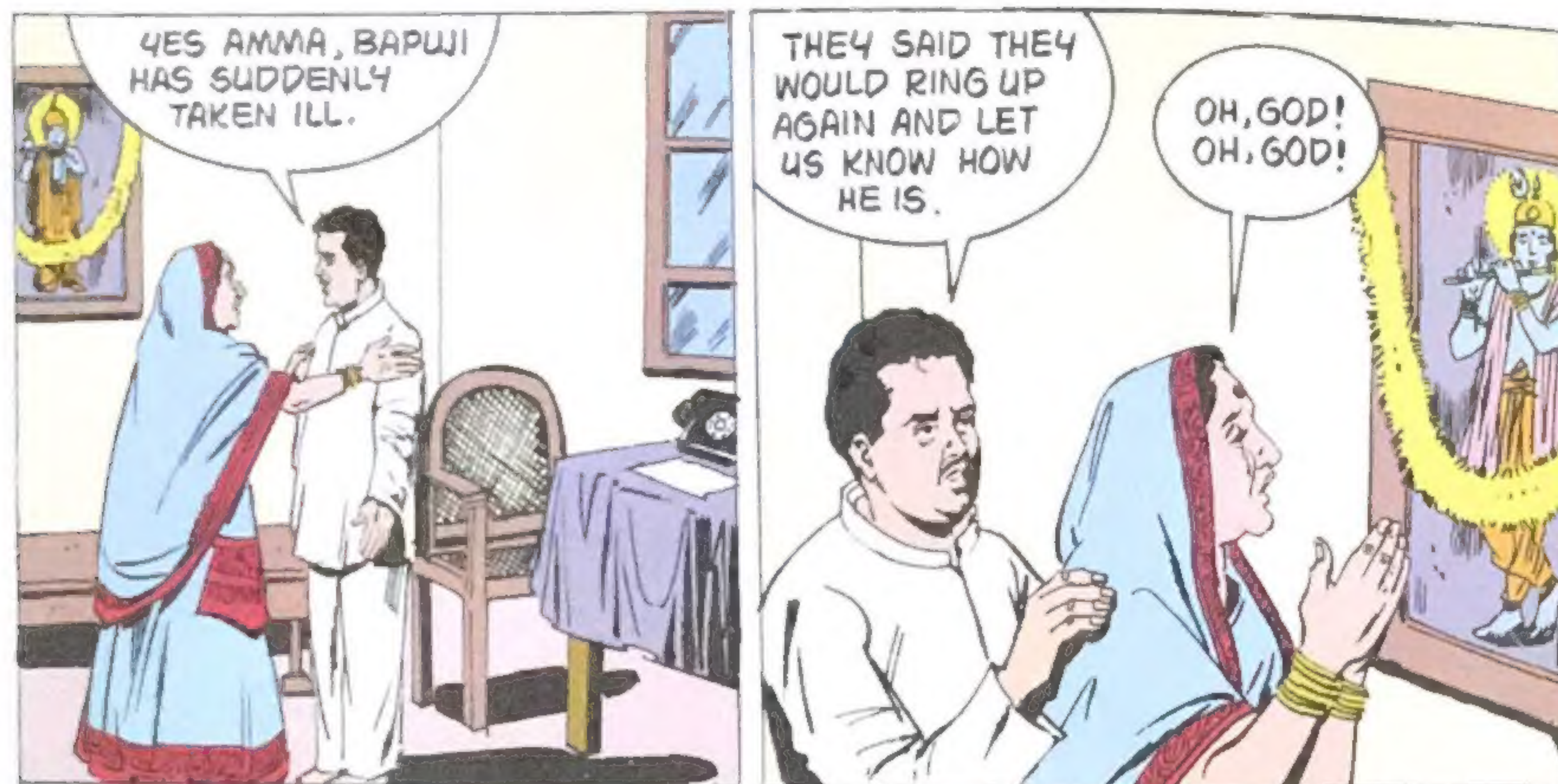


BACK IN INDIA —

AMMA, THERE WAS A CALL FROM TASHKENT JUST NOW.

WHAT? AT THIS TIME? IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT. IS IT BAD NEWS, HARI?





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